

Palestinian: No deal on refugee talks

WASHINGTON (R) — A top Palestinian negotiator in multilateral talks on Middle East refugees cast doubt on Tuesday on a reported procedural breakthrough that would allow Israel to drop its boycott and join the negotiations. The deal was widely reported after Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa visited Israel last Thursday. He announced agreement on a formula that would allow Israel to drop its boycott of talks on refugees and Middle East economic development due to resume in the next month. Under the agreement, Israel dropped its objection to negotiating with Palestinians from outside the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as long as they were not members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation or the Palestine National Council (PNC). But Mohammed Hallaj, a member of the Palestinian delegation to the talks on refugees, told Reuters that both he and the Palestinian delegation chairman, Elias Sanbar, were members of the PNC and both intended to remain in the talks. "As far as we're concerned, we're proceeding on the assumption that our delegation is unchanged. We have met with the Americans and the Canadian hosts in preparation for the next round and nobody objected to our delegation," he said.

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Jordan, Russia sign debt accord

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan and Russia have reached agreement on settling the Kingdom's debts to the former Soviet Union, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported Tuesday. The agency said the agreement, worked out between the two sides during the current visit of Russian Minister of Foreign Economic Relations Peter Avin (see page 3) and Jordanian Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, provides for partial buy-back of the debts and partial payment in goods. The agency did not provide any figures related to the agreement, which was signed by the two ministers Tuesday. According to earlier reports, Jordan owed Moscow \$750 million. Mr. Jaradneh told Petra that the agreement was very important to Jordan since it reduces the Kingdom's burden of servicing its foreign debts and will boost international confidence in Jordan's economy as well as help secure financing for projects in the Kingdom, particularly in industry and infrastructure. The Russian minister hailed the accord as opening a new page in Jordanian-Russian relations.

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PSD gives rousing welcome to King

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein was given a rousing welcome by the members of the Public Security Department (PSD) when he paid a visit to the PSD headquarters Tuesday. It was the King's first visit to the PSD headquarters after his return home following successful surgery abroad. The PSD director-general, Major-General Fadel Ali Fheid, delivered an address welcoming the King and reiterated the loyalty and allegiance of the PSD personnel to the Throne, the Jordan News Agency, Petra, reported. A major celebration, including national songs and traditional dances, was organised by the PSD to mark the occasion of the King's visit. The celebrations were attended by senior PSD officers and a large gathering of PSD personnel.

King Hassan to visit Jordan

RABAT (AP) — King Hassan II will visit five countries next week in a tour of the Middle East, the government announced Tuesday. King Hassan's trip will take him to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Jordan, Syria and Egypt, the announcement said. It did not give a departure date or other details of the tour.

Kazakhstan denies nuclear sales to Iran

ALMA-ATA, Kazakhstan (AP) — Government officials Tuesday denied a report by an Iranian opposition group that Tehran had struck a deal with Kazakhstan to buy four nuclear warheads. The reports (see page 2) so were dismissed by a spokesman for the Moscow military headquarters of the Commonwealth of Independent States. But Sergei Matayev, press secretary to Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev, denied that such a deal had been made.

Iraqi refugees remain in boat off Greece

ATHENS (AP) — The government said Tuesday that a boatload of Iraqi Christian refugees would be kept at sea on a tour boat until Greece and Turkey worked out who would take them in. The 77 Iraqis have been at sea since last Wednesday, when Greek authorities on the islands of Kos tried to deport them to the nearby Turkish resort of Bodrum, because they had allegedly been smuggled into Greece by Turks. Turkey rejected the request and Greece has confined the Iraqis to the boat as it sails just outside Turkish territorial waters while the Greek and Turkish governments haggle over them. On Monday, the two countries agreed to hold talks aimed at preventing illegal immigrants crossing to Greece from Turkey.

Pollard appeal denied

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. Supreme Court Tuesday rejected an appeal by Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard claiming the 1986 U.S. government under which he confessed his guilt. Lawyers for Mr. Pollard, a former U.S. navy intelligence analyst sentenced to life in prison after admitting he sold secrets to Israel, said in the appeal the government did not live up to its end of the deal. Justice Department lawyers denied the charges, saying Pollard struck the best deal possible and waited years before challenging the government's conduct at his sentencing.

Pakistan asks Syria to send back Bhutto

ISLAMABAD (AP) — The government asked Syria on Tuesday to extradite Muratza Bhutto, the leader of an organisation in Pakistan and the son of former Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto. Muratza Bhutto, who lives in exile in Damascus, acknowledged for the first time last month that he heads the Al Zulfikar Organisation formed 13 years ago. In an interview with the English-language daily, the News International, Mr. Bhutto said he formed the group after his father was overthrown in 1977 and hanged two years later.

Panic sweeps Cairo after earthquake kills over 400

Egypt denies report that 1,000 killed by trembler

Combined agency dispatches

THE DEATH toll in Egypt's worst earthquake rose above 400 Tuesday and thousands of frightened people camped out along the road to Cairo airport after rumours swept the city that another tremor was expected.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies said in Geneva at least 1,000 people were dead or missing and 10,000 had been injured. But Prime Minister Atef Sedki told Reuters this information was "completely inaccurate."

The secretary-general of the Egyptian Red Crescent, Mamdouh Gabr, said he believed the report was a straightforward mistake. The crescent had sent a fax to Geneva referring to 1,000 dead, missing and homeless, but the word "homeless" had been dropped in an English translation.

Sources at the Ministry of Interior said they had definite word of 402 dead across the country, most of them in greater Cairo

where 12 million people live in one of the most overcrowded urban areas in the world.

Mr. Sedki was speaking at Cairo airport just before President Hosni Mubarak arrived home after cutting short a visit to China. Officials said he immediately convened a meeting with ministers and local government leaders.

Telephones at Reuters rang throughout the afternoon as people across Cairo called to check rumours that experts had warned another quake was expected.

In the poor district of Seiyida Zinaab, people nervous about cracks in the walls of their houses fled furniture and carpets onto pickup trucks and vans.

Cars were parked along a two-kilometre stretch of the highway to Cairo airport, which lies in the desert just outside the city and people in them said they worried by the rumours of another tremor. Families had brought food.

King sends condolences to Mubarak

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein Tuesday sent a cable to Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, condoling him over the deaths caused by the earthquake which hit Cairo Monday.

The King also expressed deep regret and sorrow over the loss or damage caused to individuals and property and requested President Mubarak to convey condolences to the families of the victims.

Jordan offers help

Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben

Shaker Tuesday called Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sedki and expressed the Jordanian government's sorrow over the disastrous effects of the earthquake.

Sharif Zeid told Dr. Sedki that, upon directives by King Hussein, the Jordanian government places all its medical capabilities at Egypt's disposal to help those suffering from the effects of the earthquake. Sharif Zeid also expressed his condolences to the families of victims.

Authorities said meanwhile no Jordanian was killed or injured in the quake.

quake — 147 in Cairo and 135 in 'neighbouring Giza' — and 3,369 were injured, a spokesman said. Hundreds of aftershocks raged through the area, startling the already traumatised residents of this city of 14 million.

"Now I know what hell is like," said Nadia Ezzeddin, a housewife in central Cairo's residential Zamalek island.

Monday's main quake measured 5.9 on the Richter scale, a medium-strength tremor.

"The large number of casualties was due to the fact that there are many rickety old buildings as well as shoddily constructed newer ones," said Dr. Joseph S. Mikhail, director of the national

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Palestinian jail strike continues

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Efforts to end a hunger strike by Palestinian prisoners hit a snag Tuesday when Israeli officials said they would deal with humanitarian problems but refused to budge on what they termed "security issues."

Also Tuesday, the army confirmed the death of a 12-year-old Palestinian shot in the head during a solidarity rally for the prisoners last week.

Most of the 2,000 Palestinian prisoners suspended their 15-day fast Sunday on condition their demands for prison reform were met.

But Arab lawyers, who met Tuesday with Police Minister Moshe Shahal, told a news conference that their main demands had not been met and the hunger strike could be renewed.

"There is no dramatic change in the Israeli position," lawyer Ali Ghuzlan said.

The strikers, concentrated in jails run by the Israeli prison authority, are demanding better food, exercise facilities and visitation rights. The inmates also have called for allowing "security" prisoners to mingle with other inmates and for releasing sick and elderly prisoners.

The strike continued Tuesday in the Nafha prison in southern Israel but was suspended in other facilities, the prison authority said.

Some Palestinian leaders said prisoners in the towns of Ashkelon and Beersheva also remained on strike, but the information could not be independently verified.

Mr. Shahal told Israeli Television that he had pledged to improve prison conditions even before the Palestinian hunger-strike began.

He noted that the Palestinians had put forward what he considered "humanitarian problems" such as difficulty for families to reach Israeli prisons from the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip and concerns that Muslim women prisoners were being treated by male doctors in contravention of their customs.

"On the questions connected to humanitarian problems, if possible, we of course will take steps in this direction," Mr. Shahal said.

He added, however, that Palestinians "need to know that all is under the limitation of the security problem."

In a second television interview, Mr. Shahal said he believed that if the hunger-strike and daily Arab solidarity rallies were resumed "then the meaning is that

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Jordan's talks with London Club not 'collapsed' but postponed

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's negotiations with the London Club on rescheduling the Kingdom's commercial debts have not "collapsed" as suggested in a newspaper report, but were put off pending the group's response to Jordan's quest for better rescheduling terms, informed sources said Tuesday.

According to the sources, the position adopted by Jordan in the negotiations reflects "strength rather than weakness since it is demanding its own terms and is supported by the IMF" (International Monetary Fund).

The sources were commenting on a report carried by the London-based Al Hayat newspaper that talks held last month between Jordan and a steering committee of London Club had "collapsed," and that the creditor banks' displeasure could lead to letters of credit issued by Jordanian commercial banks being rejected.

"The report indicates either that the newspaper is fishing in murky waters with a view to damaging Jordan's financial standing in the international market or that the creditors are trying to exploit the situation by exercising pressure on Jordan into accepting their terms," said one of the sources.

Jordan has already reached agreement with the Paris Club of creditor governments on rescheduling the Kingdom's debts due until mid-1993. It is seeking a similar agreement with the London Club but covering all the Kingdom's debts to the institutions included in the club — about \$1.2 billion of its total foreign obligations which now stand at around \$7 billion.

The terms being discussed with the London Club include partial debt buy-back, partial conversion of debts into investments in Jordan or Jordanian government bonds in dinars, and partial payment.

Finance Minister Basel Jaradneh, who headed the Jordanian

side to the talks which ended Sept. 30, "turned down the terms offered by the London Club and insisted that the club accept a Jordanian proposal with slight amendments," said the source, who preferred anonymity.

"It was agreed that the negotiations be put off for some time," added the source. "It was certainly no collapse of the talks."

IMF representatives attended the London talks and supported Jordan's position, the source told the Jordan Times. The IMF support indicates that a deadline given to Jordan to reach agreement with the commercial banks could be extended and that the Kingdom would not be under IMF pressure to conduct negotiations with its creditors.

"Jordan has until the end of this year to reach an agreement with the London Club," said the source. "If this deadline was not met, then it is likely that it would be extended by another six

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Siad Barre forces overrun Somali town

MOGADISHU (AP) — Forces loyal to Somalia's ousted dictator Siad Barre, the field headquarters of the country's main warlord, early Tuesday. Three expatriates, including two U.S. journalists, were temporarily trapped in the embattled town.

Plans were under way to evacuate the Boston Globe writer and photographer and four Somali aid workers, but an Australian working for Care International planned to remain in Bardera, aid officials said.

Seventeen relief workers, including four foreigners, also were evacuated from the nearby town of Sacowain, 60 kilometres south of Bardera, aid officials said.

Those evacuated included two expatriates working for the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP) and two with Care.

In an unrelated development, the WFP had to cancel a flight of relief food to the coastal town of Kisimayu because of insecurity there, according to Francis Mwanza, WFP spokesman in Kenya. He had no further information.

"The Care International compound was fired on during the Bardera takeover, but attackers stopped shooting at the building when they realised it was an aid base, according to Rick Grant, a

Care spokesman in Kenya. The foreigners were not harmed in the fighting, according to Mr. Grant and other aid officials. Somali casualty figures were not available.

Mr. Grant said Care staff member Bob Allen, 49, of Australia, told his office by radio telephone that fighting had stopped by midday and the town was calm.

Mr. Allen said the occupying forces, loyalists of former dictator Mohammad Siad Barre, had offered guarantees of security and urged him to remain to continue his life-saving work, Mr. Grant reported.

Aid workers in Bardera and Sacowain are caring for tens of thousands of hungry people, victims of a devastating famine gripping the Horn of African country.

More than 100,000 people already have died from the combined effects of drought and warfare and another two million are threatened.

Brigadier General Intiaz Shabeen, commander of 500 U.N. troops in Mogadishu to protect humanitarian efforts there, flew to Bardera to ensure the safe evacuation of the journalists and aid workers, according to a statement from U.N. offices in Mogadishu.

Kabul claims capture of air base

KABUL (Agencies) — The Islamic interim government has said its forces had captured a strategic air base in western Afghanistan from dissident rebels.

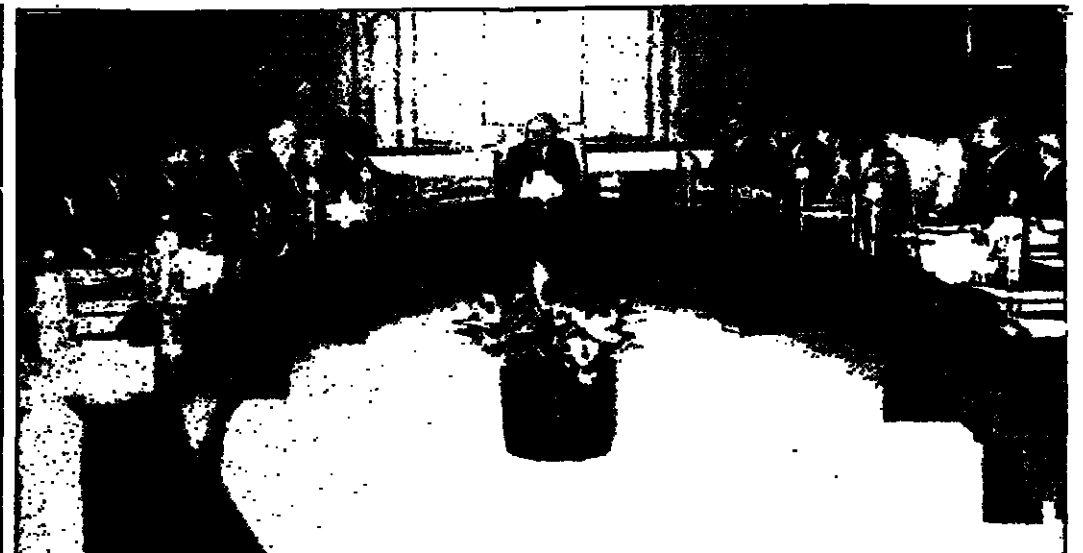
The government's claim that it now controls Shindand air base could not be confirmed independently. If true, it would leave the renegade Hezb-e-Islami faction weaker militarily.

Defence Ministry sources said government forces captured Shindand before dawn Monday. They had no casualty figures but said four Soviet-made planes had been destroyed in the daylong battle.

Shindand, 125 kilometres east of Afghanistan's border with Iran, was captured by Hezb-e-Islami during the collapse of the former communist government.

On Sunday, fighter jets from Shindand bombed the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, the headquarters of a commando-style Uzbek militia that has helped defend the Afghan capital against attack by Hezb-e-Islami forces.

Hezb-e-Islami chief Gulbuddin Hekmatyar is demanding the militia's withdrawal from Kabul.



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday chairs a Cabinet meeting (Petra photo)

King chairs Cabinet meeting, reaffirms Jordan's commitments

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday visited the Prime Ministry for a brief round of talks with Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and chaired part of a meeting of the Council of Ministers for the first time since his return home from abroad after successful surgery and recuperation.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Sharif Zeid voiced the happiness and joy of the entire Cabinet members over the King's recovery and safe return home and reaffirmed their loyalty and allegiance to the throne.

The agency quoted the King as saying that he was impressed by "the true compassion and noble feelings expressed by the Jordanian people."

"While recuperating from the surgery I underwent, every member of the Jordanian family was always on my mind," the King said.

The King expressed sorrow and grief over Monday's earthquake which caused extensive deaths and damage in Egypt and asked the government to put all resources of Jordan at the disposal of Egypt to help it through the difficult situation, Petra said.

The King also emphasised that Jordan "will continue to strengthen the foundations laid by Jordanians and to raise the building high and pursue the march which it has charted, and turning itself into a model to be emulated."

His Majesty also stressed Jordan's commitment to respecting democratic principles and human rights as well as enhanced public participation in "shouldering responsibilities as a way of life despite the difficulties of the current phase and the magnitude of challenges."

"Jordan seeks a better future and all the rules and principles have been drawn up for the benefit of future generations," he added.

Sharif Zeid briefed the King on his government's plans to establish an administrative control and inspection bureau aimed at improving the performance of public administration and developing the functions of the various arms of the government.

Handwriting, photo introduced in Shbeilat and Qarrash case

By Sana Atiyeh Special to the Jordan Times

MARKA — The trial of Shabbab Al Nafar Al Islami concluded its seventh day Tuesday at the State Security Court with a new prosecution witness testifying to finding more explosives and a police officer, regarded as a handwriting expert, being cross-examined by the defence.

Before the witnesses gave their testimonies, the court also heard a discussion on the media's handling of the trial — an issue that has been emerging frequently since the investigations into this case started.

Defence lawyers representing the two Lower House of Parliament members charged in the case, Laith Shbeilat and Yacoub Qarrash, reiterated their objection to the official media coverage of the trial, particularly that of Jordan Television (JTV).

Ibrahim Bakr, who heads Mr. Shbeilat's defence team, complained to the court that JTV's coverage of the trial on Monday was a "campaign against my client," and requested the court's interference to "achieve objective reporting."

Monday's court session focused on

recorded telephone conversations which the prosecution said involved the two accused deputies with seven others. One of the voices in the tapes was identified by a sound technician and prosecution witness as that of Mr. Shbeilat's and was heard cursing Parliament and its members, which seemed to be the basis for one of the charges against the deputy — slander against Parliament members.

Mr. Bakr had previously made a similar protest and requested that the press not cover the trial except with permission from the State Security Court. The court had rejected the request.

While Mr. Bakr accused JTV of "stretching all limits," Sheikh Qarrash's chief lawyer, Ahmad Abu Arkoub, said that both the television and radio Jordan were "distorting the truth" in their coverage of the trial and called on the press not to prejudice the defendants.

In response to the defence's request, Prosecutor Major Mohammad Hijazi suggested that the lawyers file their protest "elsewhere and not to the State Security Court."

"The court is not responsible or concerned with the media coverage of the trial sessions, and it is not responsible for limiting freedom of the press," Maj. Hijazi told the court. The presiding judge, Lieutenant

Colonel Yousef Faouri, who remarked that he neither watched TV nor read the papers, said that it was not within the jurisdiction of the court to interfere with the media work. But he stressed that only the court can judge the defendants and urged the press to remain objective in reporting the trial.

"No-one knows what is in the conscience of the court or what the court thinks," Judge Faouri said, facing the press who occupied the first row of seats allocated for the public. "Just report the news as it is without judging anyone."

The role of the media, both local and international, has been an issue of controversy since the arrests of the deputies. The media have been accused by Parliament and the government, as well as members of political groups, of being biased in reporting the case either in favour of or against the detained members of Parliament. The Ministry of Information had also warned journalists against writing about the case before it was referred to the court in order to avoid influencing public opinion.

The first to take the stand in Tuesday's court session was a new witness whom the prosecutor had introduced late last week and which

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Palestinian peace delegates head for Tunis ahead of PCC meeting

By P.V. Vivekanand Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Senior members of the Palestinian delegation to peace negotiations with Israel Tuesday headed for Tunis to consult the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) ahead of the seventh round of talks beginning Oct. 21.

The delegates, headed by Faisal Hussein, overall head of the 28-member team and advisors, and Haidar Abdul Shafi, the chief negotiator, will be in the Tunisian capital on the eve of a crucial meeting of the Palestine Central Council (PCC).

"We will brief the PLO leadership on the peace process but we don't know yet whether we will attend the PCC meeting," said Saeb Erakat, one of the delegates.

The PCC meeting is expected to be heated over Palestinian participation in the peace process. It was not clear Tuesday whether any of the headline factions of the PLO would stay away

from the meeting in protest against affirmations by mainstream PLO leaders that Palestinians would continue to participate in the peace talks.

The headline factions, headed by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) — members of a 10-faction coalition which is demanding Palestinian pullout from the West Bank — have called for a postponement of the PCC meeting. Senior PLO leaders have shrugged off the calls and all indications from Tunis are that the meeting would be held Thursday.

In addition to Mr. Hussein, Dr. Abdul Shafi and Dr. Erakat, the delegation that left for Tunis Tuesday included Ghassan Khatib, Zakaria Al Agha and Najmi Al Jaba.

Dr. Erakat said the team would return to Amman with Farouk Kadoumi, head of the political department of the PLO and the de facto Palestinian foreign minister, to attend a Saturday meeting of the foreign ministers of Jordan, Syria and Lebanon — the parties directly involved in the peace negotiations with Israel. Dr. Erakat said the Palestinians

welcomed the meeting since "the Arab sides to the peace talks need to deepen their coordination and strengthen their strategy in the negotiations with Israel."

The delegate, a political science professor, described as exaggerated media reports of Palestinian fears that Syria might conclude a separate peace agreement with Israel before an Israeli-Palestinian accord was reached.

"Regardless of the reports, the main element that binds the Arab sides together is the fact that not once during the last one year of negotiations has Israel mentioned the word withdrawal," said Dr. Erakat. "Without a total withdrawal, there is not going to be any peace agreement on any track — Syrian-Israeli, Lebanese-Israeli, Jordanian-Israeli or Palestinian-Israeli."

According to Dr. Erakat, Israel will return to the bilateral talks in Washington with a "three-pronged" strategy: "Undermine Arab coordination and common position with a view to dividing and conquering; exploit the election victory of the

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Rebels insist Iran has Kazakh arms

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Iran has secretly purchased four nuclear warheads from the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan, an Iranian dissident group insists.

Several experts from Kazakhstan are currently in Iran helping the country's nuclear weapons programme, according to the Mujahadeen-e-Khalq.

The Iraqi-based organisation's political department leader, Mohammad Mohammadin, warned the Bush administration about the nuclear weapons purchase in meetings in Washington last week, aides told Reuters.

Syndicated columnist Evans and Novak in a column on Monday quoted "high U.S. officials who are aware of Iran's bid to Kazakhstan" as saying it may be impossible to prevent delivery of warheads if Tehran has in fact signed an agreement.

"There is evidence that Iran planned this intensified activity and the spread of its revolutionary doctrine throughout the region to coincide with the U.S. election campaign, when President (George) Bush would be preoccupied," they wrote.

"The Tehran government feels it has nothing to fear from Washington and considers the Persian Gulf its own pond, with Iraq out of the game."

The Mujahadeen has long accused Tehran's ruling mullahs of pursuing a nuclear weapons capability to bolster their brand of Islamic fundamentalism.

Iran signed the agreement with Kazakhstan and paid for the warheads, which Iran may want to fit to Chinese-made Silkworm missiles, but delivery has not yet taken place, according to the Mujahadeen.

Aides to Mr. Mohammadin said that three of the experts from Kazakhstan are now working in Karaj, 60 kilometres west of Tehran, and at least one other is in Tehran working for Iran's Atomic Energy Organisation.

They said that negotiations to acquire the warheads began in April with the visit to Tehran by a high-ranking Kazakhstani official. A delegation, headed by Iran's defence minister, Akbar Torkan, followed up with a visit to

Kazakhstan in July.

The Mujahadeen report comes a month after Kazakhstan's prime minister, Sergei Tereschenko, pledged on a visit to Israel that his country would sell none of the nuclear weapons it inherited upon the breakup of the Soviet Union.

"Nuclear weapons will not be sold, not to Iran or any other country. Kazakhstan is peace loving," Mr. Tereschenko told Israeli President Chaim Herzog and repeated the statement for Israeli Radio on Sept. 7.

The State Department was closed for the Columbus Day holiday. But one official, who requested anonymity, said from home that a claim similar to the Mujahadeen's had been made earlier this year and U.S. officials had not been able to confirm it.

The official said the United States opposes any nuclear purchase by Iran because "we just don't trust their intentions."

Another official cautioned that the Mujahadeen has a stake in any report which makes the fundamentalist Muslim leaders of Iran look bad.

However, the opposition group, which is based in Iran and maintains a substantial lobbying office in Washington, has provided accurate information on Iran's nuclear activities in the past.

Iran last month announced purchase of a nuclear reactor from China. Announcing the deal, Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said his country, which is signatory to the international treaty banning the spread of nuclear weapons, would submit the reactor to international safeguards.

The State Department protested the sale as "highly imprudent" and said it "would inevitably result in an enhancement of Iran's nuclear infrastructure."

Russia has also gone ahead recently, despite U.S. opposition, with sales to Iran of two nuclear reactors and three submarines.

Opposing the sales, Acting Secretary of State Lawrence Eagleburger said Iran "has a certain relationship to terrorism that we consider to be anathema."

Censorship lifted, but Kuwait journalists feel fettered

KUWAIT (AP) — Independent journalists said Monday they still feel their hands are tied despite the lifting of a law that gives the information minister the right to close papers.

"The situation is going to be better than before for sure, but as long as they don't believe in freedom, we will never get to fully experience it," said Mohammad Al Sager, editor-in-chief of Al Qabas independent daily.

Emir Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah Sunday issued a decree cancelling an article in the publications law that empowers the information minister to close a publication for publishing slander articles that harm national security or the country's relations with friendly nations.

Censorship, imposed after Sheikh Jaber shut parliament in 1986, was lifted in January, but the press law was seen as a weapon to keep it in place.

During campaigns for the first post-war parliamentary elections Oct. 5, this law was cited as an example of lack of freedom of expression in the emirate.

Gaps in human rights in the Gulf have come under the international spotlight due to the U.S.-led coalition of over 550,000 troops who evicted Iraq from Kuwait in February 1991.

The law was also in the spotlight this week because of the long-simmering feud between Al Qabas and outgoing Information Minister Badr Al Yacoub.

Mr. Sager and Abdul Latif Al Duaij, a columnist at the same paper, have been accused of slandering the minister in a case expected to go to trial soon.

The same paper was accused of publishing national security secrets earlier in the year when it printed a complete list of names of armed forces officials from a military publication.

Mr. Sager said that case was still open but it has not been referred to state security court yet.

"It is hanging like a sword at our necks," he said. Mr. Duaij, who was released on bail Monday, said he too believed for a short while that the cancellation was a good initiative aimed at bringing the government and the newly elected parliament with an opposition majority closer together.

"I changed my mind after spending a night behind bars. It looks like the freedom we enjoyed during the campaigning period was not here to stay," said Mr. Duaij.

But government supporters hailed the change in the law, added when the country was without a parliament.

"It is a positive step from the government and it is now up to the editors-in-chief and the journalists to take responsibility for what they write," said Anwar Al Yassin, managing editor of Sawt Al Kuwait, a government paper.

Britain, Sweden file appeal for release of prisoners

BAGHDAD (AP) — Britain and Sweden have filed appeals in a Baghdad court, seeking the release of two Britons and three Swedes serving long prison terms for alleged entry to Iraq, diplomats said Tuesday.

"We are now waiting for the verdict," said Gleb Dessiatnikov, a Russian diplomat, looking after British interest in Baghdad.

"We have reasons to be optimistic that the court will decide in our favour either by the end of the week or early next week," Mr. Dessiatnikov said.

A diplomat at the Swedish embassy confirmed that appeals for the Swedes also have been filed.

"We cannot give details at this moment, but we confirm that we are taking all legal steps to seek their release," said the diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear which court will hear the cases.

Iraqi Foreign Minister Mohammad Saeed Al Sahhaf announced Monday that the process for the release of the five should go through the legal system, indicating some movement was under way in this regard.

The appeals were filed on Oct. 9 through Iraqi lawyers, Mr. Dessiatnikov said.

The Swedes — Christer Strömgren, Stefan Wihlborg and Leif Westerberg — worked for the Ericsson telecommunications company in Kuwait. They were arrested last month after straying into Iraq across the

poorly marked border with Kuwait and were sentenced Sept. 20 to seven years in prison each.

Paul Ride, 33, a British chef working in Kuwait, also was sentenced to seven years after his arrest at the border in August.

Briton Michael Wainwright, 42, is serving a 10-year term. He was arrested in May after crossing from Turkey into the Kurdish-controlled area of northern Iraq. He said Iraqi guards let him in. The diplomats said all five prisoners were in good health.

"They are no more in a state of shock, they are more relaxed now," Mr. Dessiatnikov said of the Britons.

The Iraqi government freed American bomb-disposal expert Chad Hall this weekend after his arrest last week at the disputed Kuwait-Iraq border. The government said his arrest was a mistake, and indication that it had established that Mr. Hall had been picked up in Kuwaiti territory.

London and Stockholm mounted pressure on Baghdad to free their citizens after Mr. Hall's release without trial.

In London, the Foreign Office Monday summoned Iraq's senior diplomat, Zuhir Ibrahim, to protest the continued detention of the Britons.

Mr. Ibrahim has been based at the Jordanian embassy since London severed relations with Baghdad over the Gulf crisis, triggered by Iraq's August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

God's wrath behind quake — street preacher

CAIRO (R) — The hand of God was behind the earthquake that hit Cairo Monday, a Muslim fundamentalist preacher told terrified residents who had fled their homes. "This is a warning from God," the man in white robe and long black beard exhorted a knot of men who had rushed into a Cairo street. Several nodded agreement. "This is a warning so we wake up and stop the sin which is spreading among us," he said. "If oppression and corruption spread, God's punishment will be severe."

Algerian gold smuggling ring smashed

ALGERIERS (R) — Police have smashed a gold smuggling ring in Algeria's port city of Oran and seized ingots and jewellery valued at 18 million dinars (\$860,000). The official news agency APS said six one kilogramme ingots were stamped with the words "Credit Suisse," and police sources said the smuggling network had links overseas. Part of the haul included 45 heavy gold chains, 104 light ones, 169 necklaces and 232 women's rings. Police also seized 737,300 dinars (\$35,100) in cash. Three men were arrested and were taken before court on Monday charged with smuggling and fraud. Two men are being hunted.

Cyprus tightens checks on dealings with Serbia

NICOSIA (R) — Cyprus has sent out new guidelines to firms on the island in an effort to check any breach of U.N. sanctions on Serbia, a senior central bank official said Tuesday. "This is the fifth circular we've sent out since May 30, the day sanctions on Serbia were imposed," said the official, who asked not to be named. The circular refers to the transfer of funds to third parties, deposits and withdrawals in foreign currencies as well as trade transactions. Banks are asked to submit to the central bank a weekly return for cash deposits and withdrawals in excess of \$20,000 or its equivalent made by people connected with Serbia. A British daily alleged last month that Serbian companies were using the island for multi-million dollar operations to get around United Nations sanctions on Serbia and Montenegro. The central bank denied the allegation.

King Hassan confers with U.N. envoy

RABAT (R) — King Hassan of Morocco held talks on Monday with Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, special United Nations envoy for Western Sahara who is seeking a settlement to the 16-year conflict in the former Spanish colony. The official news agency MAP reported the meeting at the royal palace in Rabat but gave no further details. A U.N. mission is monitoring a ceasefire proclaimed in the disputed territory a year ago prior to holding a

referendum originally scheduled for last January. The vote will decide whether the people want independence, as demanded by Polisario guerrillas, or to be part of Morocco, which controls most of the territory. But the referendum has been stalled by a dispute over who can vote. The Polisario has protested that by holding local council elections in Western Sahara next Friday, Morocco is violating the U.N. peace plan. Morocco says the elections will not affect the plan in any way. Last week, the guerrilla group reported violent clashes in the Western Saharan towns of Smara and Laayoun, claiming security forces brutally repressed crowds demonstrating in favour of the Polisario. Sources close to the government in Rabat said there were minor clashes in Smara last week between supporters of rival political parties campaigning for election. Several arrests were made after cars were overturned or burned and some windows broken, the sources said.

Aoun calls for boycott of state

BEIRUT (R) — Exiled General Michel Aoun has urged Lebanon's Christian opposition leaders to boycott the Syrian-backed administration of President Elias Hrawi. Gen. Aoun's call came in an interview published Monday in Beirut's leading Al Nahar daily to mark the second anniversary of his fall from power in a Syrian-led Lebanese army offensive. The general was defeated on Oct. 13, 1990, and was later forced into exile in France. Asked what were the future steps of the opposition after boycotting Lebanon's first general elections in 20 years, Gen. Aoun said: "Boycotting the state totally... in practice that would materialise by resigning from senior government posts." "The whole state should be brought to a standstill," Most Christian groups, including Gen. Aoun's followers, have vowed not to recognise the newly-elected parliament, due to take office Thursday. Gen. Aoun said new polls should be held and called for an international conference on Lebanon attended by Syria and Israel to set a schedule for the pull out of Damascus's 35,000 troops from the country. The general said an alternative should be found to the 1989 Taif peace pact which ended 15 years of civil war. The pact stripped the once-dominant Christians of most privileges by dividing power equally between them and the Muslims.

Iran's non-oil exports go up

NICOSIA (R) — Iran said Monday it exported non-oil goods worth 1.2 billion in the six months to Sept. 22, a rise of 21 per cent over the similar period last year. Tehran Radio said hand-woven carpets accounted for 42 per cent of the exports, followed by pistachio nuts, copper, clothes and hides. Oil Minister Gholamreza Azgahadeh said last month crude oil exports had earned more than \$8 billion in the six-month period, slightly higher than budgeted target.

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PROGRAMME TWO:

18:00	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	De Cirque
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Saved by the Bell
21:00	Wednesday forum
21:30	Cueto
22:00	News in English
22:30	Bangkok Hilton

PRAYER TIMES

04:15	Fajr
05:32	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:22	Dhuhr
14:39	'Asr
17:12	Maghrib
18:20	Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swatfeh, Tel. 810740
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 632785
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 67440
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751
Assiout International Church Tel. 683226
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811255
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623624, 654952
Church of the Nazareth Tel. 675691

WEATHER
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.

Slight drop in temperatures will take place and winds will be northerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.

Min./Max. temp.
Amman 14/27
Aqaba 20/24
Deserts 12/29
Jordan Valley 21/35

Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 30, Aqaba 36. Humidity readings: Amman 20 per cent, Aqaba 26 per cent.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:
Dr. Mohammad Al Sawwa 752056
Dr. Basim Qaddoumi 646004
Dr. Hanna Mansour 750197
Dr. Yousef Sammour 615648
Firas pharmacy 661912
Ferdows pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 637055
Nisourah pharmacy 626272
Al Salan pharmacy 636730
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsani pharmacy 637660
Nairojhi pharmacy 623672
Najih pharmacy 847632

EBRD:
Dr. Ali Al Omani 272032
Al Sabar pharmacy 273825

ZARQA:
Dr. Tarq Hijawi 985445
Razmi pharmacy 995119

EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue 630941
Blood Bank 775121
Fire Brigade 891228
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896390
Public Security Department 630321
Hotel Complaints 605800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage 897467
Amman Municipality
Complaints 767111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Oncology Clinic 010230
Repairs 623101
Abdalla Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 690100
Jordan Electricity Authority 815615
Electric Power Company 636381

HOSPITALS

AMMAN:
Hussein Medical Centre 813813/32
Khaldil Maternity, J. Amn 642816/2
Alkhal Maternity, J. Amn 642412
Malinas, J. Amman 636140
Palestine, Shamsani 664171/4
Shamsani Hospital 669131
University Hospital 845945
Al-Munster Hospital 667227/9
The Islamic, Abdali 666123/7
Al-Ahli, Abdali 664164/6
Italian, Al-Mutajreen 777101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/26
Army, Marka 891611/15
Queen Alia Hospital 602240/50
Amal Hospital 674155

ZARQA:
Zarqa Gov. Hospital (09)983323
Zarqa National Hospital (09)900560
Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732
Al-Hana Medical Hospital (09)990590
EBRD:
Prince Bessan Hospital (02)272355
Greek Catholic Hospital (02)272775
Ibn Al-Nafis Hospital (02)271100

FOR THE TRAVELLER
QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights - (Terminal 1)

06:00	Aden (RJ)
06:30	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
07:00	Jeddah (RJ)
07:30	Lamaca (RJ)
08:00	Damascus (RJ)
08:30	Doha, Bahrain (RJ)
16:00	Madrid (RJ)
16:30	London (RJ)
16:45	Cairo (RJ)
17:25	Istanbul (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

07:00	Karachi (PI)
18:30	Jeddah (RJ)
19:30	Sana'a (Y)
19:45	Paris, Damascus (AP)
19:55	Damascus (PI)
19:55	Beirut (ME)

DEPARTURES
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

06:20	Damascus (RJ)
10:35	Berlin, London (RJ)
10:45	Rome (RJ)
10:50	Tunis, Comblance (RJ)
11:40	Istanbul (RJ)
11:45	Cairo (RJ)
12:45	Colombo (RJ)
19:30	Aqaba (RJ)
20:00	Riyadh (RJ)
20:00	Dhahran (RJ)
21:00	New Delhi (RJ)
21:40	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
22:45	Abu Dhabi, Dubai (RJ)
22:45	Sana'a (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

06:00	Damascus (PI)
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MARKET PRICES
Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple (red)	650/550
Banana	500/450
Banana (Mukammal)	450/400
Beetroot	400/350
Cabbage	150/80
Carrot	400/350
Cauliflower	260/200
Cucumbers (large)	120/80
Cucumbers (small)	240/180
Eggplant	150/80
Garlic	600/500
Lemon	220/60
Marrow (large)	180/120
Marrow (small)	380/320
Onion (dry)	180/120
Pepper (hot)	200/150
Pepper (sweet)	150/100
Portulac	340/250
Tomato	80/50
Fig	360/250
Grave	300/250
Black Grapes	300/250
Green Grapes	350/250
Dates	550/400
Olives	550/400
Parsley	80/50
meat	80/50
Pomegranate	300/250
Spinach	300/250

Green conference to convene in Cairo

AMMAN (Petra) — Despite Monday's earthquake, Jordan is to participate in a Cairo-based conference on the environment, scheduled for October 15 and 16.

The Environment Secretary General, Assem Ghosheh, left Tuesday to prepare for the meeting which will be attended by Arab ministers from the region.

According to Mr. Ghosheh, Jordanian proposals for the conference are based on the national strategy on the protection of the environment which gives attention to the badia (desert areas), reducing pollution resulting from industries, combating desertification, and promoting public awareness in matters related to environmentalism.

In particular, Jordanian proposals suggest the establishment of an Arab Regional Bank of Plant Seeds and Saplings to provide Arab states with their needs and to help stimulate inter-Arab exchange on information about planting and research work on pasture and arable land.

A Jordanian paper to be submitted to the conference explains methods to be adopted in the establishment of new industries and presents ideas about the treatment of industrial waste. Mr. Ghosheh said that the paper urges Arab states to intensify their observation and control of marine pollution and the effects of climatic changes to oceanic life. He said that the paper also focuses on water resources in the Arab World, and argues for cooperation among Arab countries with common river basins in the development of underground water networks.

On the subject of badia regions, Mr. Ghosheh said that the paper calls for an improvement in the living conditions of the badia people. He called for the establishment of data banks to provide information about resources in desert regions and to give guidance to the bedouin tribes on animal grazing.

As well as other papers from Arab countries, recommendations from the Earth Summit, held in Brazil in June, will be reviewed.

Russian envoy talks business

AMMAN (J.T.) — Visiting Russian Minister of External Economic Relations Peter Avin held talks Tuesday with Prime Minister Sharrif Zeid Ben Shakir and Minister of Industry and Trade Abdullah Ensour on promoting Jordanian-Russian trade and economic relations.

At the meeting, Mr. Avin said the present level of trade between the two countries is far below its potential.

With the adoption of free market economies, Russia does not place any barriers in the path of trade, Mr. Avin explained.

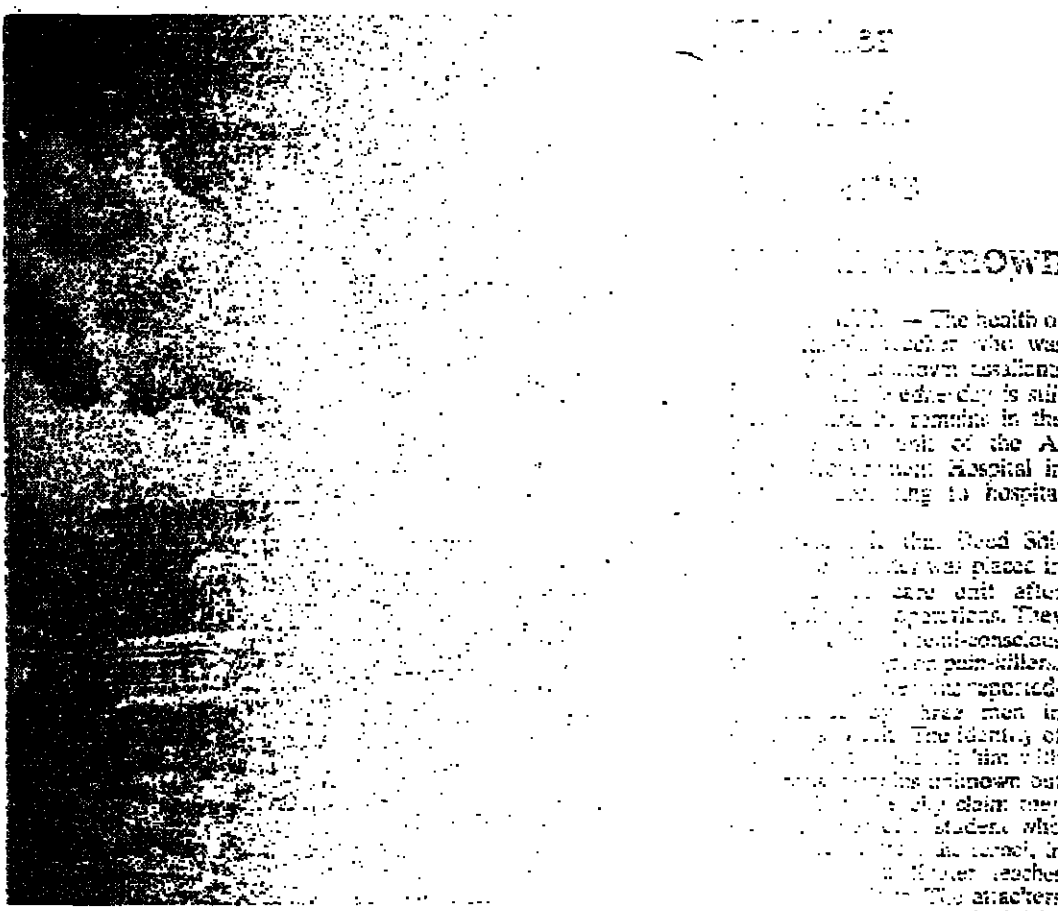
The prime minister reviewed with the Russian guest the existing trade links between the two countries and explored the prospects of increasing trade level in line with an agreement on the settlement of Jordan's debt to Moscow.

Dr. Ensour referred to the recent exchange visits by Russian and Jordanian businessmen and the Jordanian industrial fair held in Moscow which, the minister said, was highly successful.

He also said that Russian products such as crystal vases and porcelain are popular in Jordan and Jordanian goods are desired by the Russian citizens, added the minister.

Noting that Jordan also has a free market system with minimal restrictions on export and import operations, Dr. Ensour said that his ministry continually encourages investment from the private sector with numerous trade incentives.

The minister went on to suggest the creation of a joint committee to be entrusted with encouraging Russian-Jordanian economic trade cooperation. Such a committee, he said, would remove current obstacles in the path of a healthy commerce partnership.



Checking the atmosphere...

Environment

AMMAN (J.T.) — "Jordan's environment is the property of all Jordanian citizens and each one is responsible for its protection," said Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Dr. Abdul Razzak Tabeishat Tuesday on the eve of the Arab Environment Day.

Dr. Tabeishat said that this year the Kingdom is observing the day under the banner: "The Child and the Environment."

"Linking environmental endeavours with child development is an indication that the country believes that the children of today are the men of tomorrow who will inherit the nation's resources and culture," he said.

To deal with dangers posed to the environment the ministry has worked out a national environment strategy which caters, in particular, for the needs of children.

Dr. Tabeishat said that the ministry has been working to improve the environment in the capital, Amman, and in other cities. He said that the ministry has been working to improve the environment in the capital, Amman, and in other cities.

'Infiltrators' were boys armed with sticks, stones, and a potato

By Laney Salisbury
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — "Infiltrators" shot dead by Israeli soldiers as they slipped across the ceasefire line Sunday night were not guerrillas toting AK 47s and hand-grenades but boys carrying sticks, knives and a raw potato studded with nails, according to family sources.

However, one 15-year-old boy, Zakaria Mohammad Alawneh, remains missing.

His friends, Ra'ad Fadel Heshem Al Samahad, 18, and Mohammad Isa Abu Arkoub, 16, were shot after wading across the Jordan River and creeping 150 metres into occupied Palestinian land towards Jericho, according to Israeli reports.

The two died in hospital but there was no mention of a third "infiltrator."

The family of Zakaria — Ra'ad and Mohammad's boyhood friend — fear their son is detained.

"We will send a letter to Amnesty International and other human rights groups to help find out if Zakaria was arrested or killed by Israeli soldiers, or if he is safe," said Asma Khader, an Amman-based human rights activist and attorney.

Human rights groups will also help try to retrieve the bodies. Usually "infiltrators" shot by Israeli soldiers are buried in unmarked graves in desolate, desert cemeteries, according to Israeli reports.

Relatives of the deceased say that the three boys attended school in Ruseifa and were all good students.

Ra'ad, born Sept. 13, 1974, was the oldest son in his 12-member family, headed by a

father who works for the Amman Municipality. Last month Ra'ad dropped out of Ruseifa secondary school to work.

Zakaria, born May 13, 1977, also comes from a humble background of an eleven-member family. According to his elementary school certificate, he was an "A" grade student.

Mohammad, born March 6, 1976, is from a nine-member family. His father is a driver.

None of the boys, or their families were politically inclined. Mohammad, for example, was "fascinated by football" and dreamed of achieving glory on a football field — not a battleground. Almost daily, Ra'ad and his two friends met on the dusty playgrounds of Ruseifa to play soccer with a ball bound of old clothes.

"They were small kids with close-cropped hair, it would be difficult to mistake them as men," he said.

According to an Israeli army statement two "men" in civilian clothes crossed the border about seven kilometres north of Jericho. Troops gave chase, opened fire and killed both.

Two days before they decided to cross into the occupied lands, Ra'ad and his friends started going to the Hama Mosque where it is believed they were influenced by fundamentalists to join the intifada, according to Ra'ad's sister.

According to a former Palestinian commando who fought before 1970, the terrain where the boys crossed "is difficult and they must have been led by a guide."

He added that in the past militant groups have used youths to cross into the occupied territories to fight in the intifada, which began in 1987 and in recent days is seeing a renaissance as thousands of Palestinians stage a hunger-strike.

According to Ms. Khader, the boys' families emphasise that they think the speeches in the mosque are responsible for what their sons did. Many Islamic groups are trying to pass on to the people that Jihad is the only way to be good.

"They are stuffing the head of these kids," she said.

One source familiar with Islamic fundamentalist movements, said that sermons are only partially the problems.

He blamed teachers on ring-leaders in secondary schools of having "brainwashed" students to join the uprising. Often the students are only armed with "the false sense of helping the intifada," the source said, who requested anonymity.

"Students and teachers see them as heroes because they fight the enemy. It's considered a heroic thing to cross over and kill." He said teachers use the indoctrination methods as the Moomins in the United States, such as depriving them of family connections and creating an extended family.

"Students are taught street fighting or judo and before slipping across the border are kept incommunicado in a mosque for six days. The day before his 'mission' there is a celebration like a wedding," the source said.

According to the source, no student has been successful. Often they cross without firearms, told by their teachers that they can pick up weapons from the Israeli soldiers they kill.

WHAT'S ON

- ★ Exhibition of paintings and sculptures by Jordanian artists at the Jordanian Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolor paintings by the Jordanian Artists' Association in the Structure of Space by Dr. Tabeishat.
- ★ Exhibition of oil and watercolor paintings by the Jordanian Artists' Association in the Structure of Space by Dr. Tabeishat.
- ★ Poster exhibition of the Jordanian Artists' Association.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Jordanian artists at the Jordanian Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition by Jordanian artists at the Jordanian Cultural Centre.

Dial a boarding card

KLM Royal Dutch Airlines has introduced a new service that saves time at check-in and boarding at Amman International Airport. Under this service, passengers can call a toll-free number to reserve a seat and check-in a day before departure. Passengers can also call to check the status of their booking and to make changes to their itinerary. With this information service, passengers can pass in no time.

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Research centre lacks funds

AMMAN (Petra) — The University of Jordan's Centre for Strategic Studies (CSS) lacks sufficient funds for its research programmes and full time researchers, according to the centre's Director General Dr. Mustafa Hamarneh.

At present, financing of the current research projects comes in the form of donations by the private sector in Jordan, said Dr. Hamarneh, but the CSS is going through a period of transition aimed at achieving self-sufficiency and more money is needed.

The CSS is keen on conducting studies with academic depth rather than following the pattern of traditional methods, and for this purpose it is organising workshops so that researchers can streamline their ideas, he added.

Referring to the CSS's coming programme of activities, Dr. Hamarneh said that preparations were underway for two strategic conferences dealing with population policies in Jordan, and the Jordanian economy.

The CSS is currently conducting an opinion poll on Jordanian desire for democracy which will be the first major and comprehensive poll ever conducted in the Kingdom, Dr. Hamarneh added.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Australian delegation holds talks with Abu Jaber

AMMAN (Petra) — A visiting Australian delegation led by Andrew Charles Theophanous had talks Tuesday with Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber and Speakers of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament to discuss peace in the Middle East. The seven-member team exchanged views with Dr. Abu Jaber about the general situation in the region and bilateral relations. Dr. Abu Jaber briefed the visitors on Jordan's position vis-à-vis regional and international issues, stressing the Kingdom's commitment to peace based on justice and the importance of the current peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab countries.

Jordanian shows his pedal-power

AMMAN (Petra) — A Jordanian traveller who is on a world cycle tour to promote peace will leave next week for Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Qatar, Abu Dhabi, Kuwait, and Oman. Ali Hassan Al Utom who has so far visited Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Morocco, Tunisia, Algeria, Egypt and Libya, also intends to visit America following his Gulf tour. In a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, Mr. Utom said his world trip hopes to enhance friendship and peace and to promote the cultural image of Jordan. He added that he has distributed more than 4000 pamphlets on Jordan.

German tourist saved by Civil Defence squad

AMMAN (Petra) — The Civil Defence personnel in the Jordan valley Monday saved a German lady who was accompanying a group of 12 tourists to the Dead Sea. The 51-year-old was climbing the hills surrounding the Dead Sea when she suffered fatigue, and low blood pressure and was unable to continue. The tourist was carried to the South Shouneh Hospital where she received first aid, and was then transferred by ambulance to the Hussein Medical Centre. Her condition Tuesday was reported as stable.

Agricultural fair in Irbid

AMMAN (Petra) — The first agricultural fair in Irbid governorate will be opened Wednesday by Agriculture Minister Fayez Al Khasawneh in which 30 public and private sector firms and institutions aim to acquaint the public with agricultural products.

Agreement between Circassian soc., RSS

AMMAN (Petra) — An agreement was signed Tuesday between the Royal Scientific Society's International Studies Centre and the Circassian Affairs Study Centre (CASA) in the Chechen republic. The agreement provides for joint studies and research and exchange of information between the two centres. The Circassian Centre will benefit from Jordan's experience in the field of teaching Arabic to citizens from the Chechen republic. The agreement was signed by RSS Vice President Said Aliouss and Shamel Amin Bino, the first Foreign Minister of the Chechen Republic, which gained its independence last year.

Conference calls for centre of neurosciences

AMMAN (Petra) — A three day conference on neuro-sciences, Tuesday recommended the establishment of a physiology unit to assess cases of epilepsy that do not respond to drugs. The conference, which was organised by the Jordanian Society for Neurosurgeons (JSNS) in cooperation with the Arab Doctors Federation, also suggested that a national centre specialising in neurosciences be established in Jordan. President of the JSNS Maurice Dahdaleh said the conference discussed in first day methods of diagnosing and treating blood vessel diseases and the treatment of blood clots.

"No for Partitioning Iraq"

AMMAN (Petra) — Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi will open Thursday in Amman an extraordinary session of the Arab Lawyers Union. The two-day conference which is organised by the union's permanent bureau will be held under the banner: "No for Partitioning Iraq," Jordan Bar Association President Waleed Abdul Hadi said. He added that the session aims to inform the world nations that Arab people are against partition.

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays. Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Approach to fault line

THE EARTHQUAKE that hit Cairo unexpectedly Monday should serve as an eye-opener for the rest of the Middle Eastern countries. Admittedly no-one had anticipated a big tremor to occur in Egypt as all available scientific knowledge had practically eliminated it ever happening.

Obviously Egypt was caught by a big surprise and was, therefore, ill-prepared for such an eventuality, judging by the size and dimension of the material destruction that ensued from the Monday tremor and the high toll it took on the lives of Egyptians. Many high-rise buildings could not withstand the shocks of the earthquake not only because of the magnitude of the tremor but also because the construction guidelines in that country never took into consideration the possibility of earthquakes ever happening there. Many buildings, therefore, fell at the first instance of the first earth movement and in the process many lives were lost.

We in Jordan can also fall into the same trap if our authorities do not start to take earthquakes as something that could happen to us as well and not as something that is peculiar to California and other distant countries. One wonders how Jordanian construction standards are set in order to cope with any huge and sudden earth-movements. Jordan has a history of tremors but has been spared such natural phenomenon over the past six or seven decades. Instead of being complacent about such a danger, it would be prudent to start issuing directives as of now on how to deal with similar disasters by commencing the application of more stringent construction rules to guide the future construction plans in the country. The mode of construction in Jordan might not take the threat very seriously. So one can be sure that none of the existing laws or by-laws on construction has earthquakes in mind as if the country is immune forever from them. The people of the country as their brethren in Egypt will be caught unprepared should a tremor occur in the Kingdom. Panic could probably ensue in the country if we are hit. Most of the fatalities in Egypt are attributable to unorganised response to the tragedy. No school or public institution in the country has ever practised drills for the event should it occur. The unfortunate children caught Monday under the rubble of their fallen school building died also from the panic that followed the first sign of the earthquake. It is high time, therefore, that Jordan started taking such risks seriously by initiating an early preparatory work for them. Early warning systems must also be introduced in order to give the country and its people sufficient time to cope with tremors and similar natural emergencies that may come our way.

The first order of business in this vein is to articulate a coherent policy on this subject. The next step is to embark on an educational campaign throughout the country. Schools, public and private institutions as well as factories should be especially targeted for this endeavour in view of their unique vulnerabilities to such massive destruction. True there is nothing that the country can do to avert earthquakes, but there is a lot that the country can do to minimise their consequences. If we do not do our home work now, it would be probably be too late to do anything should tragedy hit us also as it did in Egypt on Monday.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Tuesday urged Arab states to seek help from the U.N. Security Council to stem Israel's inhuman treatment of Arab people under its rule. Yitzhak Rabin is reported to have ordered his troops to use any force needed to put down the intifada, claiming that the current upsurge of violence was intended to abort Israel's planned separate deal with Syria over the Golan Heights, said the paper. This is a big lie, said the paper, because the intifada came to life some years ago with the purpose of liberating Palestinian land and has nothing to do with Israel's separate treaties with other Arab countries. Furthermore, the Syrians have been repeating their denial of any intention to conclude a separate treaty with Israel, and their adherence to a comprehensive peace on all fronts, the paper pointed out. It said that Israel is trying to present the escalation of resistance against occupation as a disturbance, seeking to foil the Israeli-Syrian deal and so avoid world public condemnation of the atrocities it has committed, said the daily. At the same time, it said, the Israelis hope to cause a split in views among the Arab parties at the peace negotiations which are to resume on Oct. 21. By ordering his troops to stifle the resistance with any degree of force required to do so, Mr. Rabin is revealing his sinister intentions which could be hiding new forms of crimes yet to be committed in Arab lands.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily is critical of the manner in which the organisers of the campaign to raise funds for the cancer centre conducted their activities in the past week. Fahd Fanek said that Jordan Television wasted 18 hours of broadcasting on a call-in programme to raise funds without knowing if the people would come forward and bring in the contributions they had pledged. The writer said that not a single expert or specialist in cancer diseases was invited as a guest of the programme to present to the public a clear picture of how such a centre would be beneficial to the people of Jordan. The writer cast doubt about the usefulness of such a centre, noting that Jordanian and other Arab nationals have been benefiting from the existing facilities in Jordanian hospitals and there was no need for such a costly project for which the country can not find funds to run. He said in all the United States, which has 80 times the population of Jordan, there are only two such centres which offer no medical treatment but only conduct research work. He said there was no need for such a centre since surgeons in all hospitals have been conducting operations on cancer patients while Al Bashir hospital provided the necessary chemotherapy not found in other hospitals.

Economic Forum

An economy of services

ONE OF MY longstanding and firm beliefs is that a successful growth strategy for Jordan has to emphasise services. Developments over the past two decades have added to the strength of this notion rather than weakened it. This is not to suggest that (directly) productive sectors (industry, agriculture, construction, electricity and water supply) are to be relegated but that services should be upgraded on the scale of national economic priorities.

The argument for services derives from practical reasons particular to Jordan and from academic considerations general to all economies.

From a practical point of view, Jordan enjoys relative advantages pertaining to its comparatively skilled manpower and its geographic location. These two factors make servicing the economies of the neighbouring countries and their international trade one of the natural and sensible functions of the Jordanian economy. This task becomes more imperative because Jordan is poorly endowed with natural resources and has high population growth rates which tend to produce surplus labour.

The academic argument for services is not similarly simple. Certain schools of thought did not even recognise services as a real product and when they did so, services were relegated to an inferior place compared to goods. This bias originated from the

Marxian conceptualisation. Marx thought that an economy had a productive and an unproductive part and placed services in the second, arguing that services are an "unavoidable evil." Lenin conceived the existence of three sectors: A productive sector (like agriculture), a semi-productive sector (trade) and an unproductive one (most services).

Applied development economics in the Third World was partly affected by this theorisation. True, services had been conceived as an integral part of gross domestic product but were underrated as "indirectly productive," an image which is still widespread in developing countries. Services, in particular, are accused of not being capable of generating foreign exchange, mainly because they are not exportable.

This argument is becoming growingly outdated and hopefully will be abandoned soon, at least in Jordan. To start with, one of the few things that enjoy consensus in economics is that the essence of economic activity is the satisfaction of human needs. Whatever satisfies these needs is, by definition, "valuable" or beneficial, has consequently a price and a market, and is ultimately a product. Health care, education, banking, transport, legal advice and entertainment satisfy these needs as much as any

other goods do. No economy can be run without services which companies contract out to specialist firms such as cleaning, security, data processing, shipping, advertising, insurance, etc. "Efficient services help to oil the wheels of the rest of the economy. Their absence can make development a painfully slow process."

Services are exportable. Financial services, banking, insurance, travel, medication, university education, shipping and information services are a few examples. The communication and technological revolution has dramatically increased the volume of international trade in services and the list of exportable services.

By nature, service industries are not capital-intensive and are therefore suitable to capital-starved and unemployment-plagued developing countries. Service producers do not stockpile their produce and thus a service economy tends to smooth business cycles.

Developing countries marched from agricultural economy to the industrial economy and, during the last quarter of this century, have been progressing into the services revolution, much on lines of the industrial revolution. Let's be very well aware that the service economy is the trend of the future.

King Hussein — the only individual who can ensure that social and political equilibrium is maintained

By Dr. Radwan Abdullah

The emotionally charged and at times panicky reaction of the Jordanian people to His Majesty King Hussein's recent illness, while in many ways a reassuring sign of the strength of our domestic front, points, however, to some concern for the future stability of the country. In this article, the writer, who is chairman of the Department of Political Science at the University of Jordan, explores the sources of this concern and the political bondage between the Jordanian people, on the one hand, and King Hussein as a person and the monarchy as an institution, on the other.

THE outpour of popular emotions, expressed at the return of His Majesty the King, considered by some observers as being excessive or irrational, was due, first and foremost, to the fact that His Majesty has acquired a far more significant role than the strictly political one. While no one doubts the ability and the strength of the Crown Prince to perform just as competently, the relationship of King Hussein to his people has nevertheless long surpassed the straight forward political relationship of a head of state to his subjects and acquired a paternal character. The King rules like a benevolent father who seldom uses his power and authority to force his will upon his children, assuming instead the role of guide, advisor, impartial arbiter, and conciliator. His mere presence, furthermore, provides his people with an impeccable sense of security, exactly like a strong father who, just by being there, provides his children with a sense of security totally unrelated to the degree of their material dependence on him.

The emotional response to the King's illness should be viewed as a significant political statement and not merely an expression of public affection. It shows the extent to which Jordanians identify themselves and their interests with King Hussein and the monarchy. This, in turn, reflects the high degree of awareness of the latent, but powerful, tensions and cleavages existing in our society and the invaluable role of the King in containing them and in initiating and maintaining a reasonably successful process of social and political fusion and harmonisation.

There are two main sources for the anxiety and concern of the Jordanian people for the future of their society.

The first source of concern originates in the forceful measure that the regime was compelled to take more than three decades ago as a reaction to the disruptive political activities of the then existing political forces, their strong links with hostile foreign and Arab governments, and their rejection of the regime's repeated overtures to establish a framework of tolerance and coexistence.

Such a volatile political atmosphere led to the establishment of a system of tight political control where the security of the regime and the political stability of the country became the overriding considerations. The subsequent resounding success of the regime in its confrontation with the radical opposition resulted in a prolonged period of calm which provided a golden opportunity to set in motion a sustained process of political development. That opportunity was not, however, properly and totally utilised.

Simply put, this system of control, propelled by its own inertia, persisted far much longer than warranted by the changing political environment. The system succumbed to what human beings succumb to in their daily lives. To seeking comfort and safety in established patterns of behaviour as opposed to the pain and effort involved in developing new ones; to seeking the security of the familiar as opposed to the in-

security of the unfamiliar.

The total victory of the regime over its foes greatly strengthened and entrenched the ruling circles responsible for the success of the stabilisation process. These circles acquired a vested interest in continuing the process indefinitely and maintaining its hold over power, while the same success effectively excluded the participation of any countervailing political force that could have pressed for change. The regime's initial requirement that participation be limited to individuals with a moderate political outlook, was distorted by vested interests who sought to prolong their privileged position by restricting participation and controlling the quality of new participants. Furthermore, the distinction between the radical opposition which sought to overthrow the regime and other politically active, reform minded, individuals and groups who were essentially loyal but differed in their outlook and priorities was gradually blurred. The initial task of neutralising the disloyal opposition was perverted into an attempt to wipe out all forms of political activity. The ruling circles, in an attempt to portray the reformers' challenge to their pre-dominance as being directed against the regime itself, attempted to justify their exclusion by exaggerating and perverting their aims and presenting them as a dangerous and disruptive political force. All excluded political groups were driven into the conviction that reform within the existing structure was not possible and became more inclined towards more critical views. Thus, the ruling circles, whose political pre-eminence rested upon rendering a great service to the regime and society, eventually became the main destabilising force in the Jordanian polity.

Such a process was bound to produce negative results. Our national priorities were left undefined by consecutive governments. Government policy seldom fitted a coherent framework or plan; instead a series of ad-hoc measures were taken in response to immediate problems as they arose. With the lack of accountability corruption crept in, the cancerous growth of bureaucracy continued unabated, and the civil service became inefficient and incompetent.

Political turmoil could have surfaced long ago. It was delayed, however, by the massive injections of foreign aid and remittances of Jordanian nationals working in the Gulf. The resulting economic prosperity not only masked governments' incompetence, but also helped to diffuse the underlying political tensions which resurfaced as soon as the economic boom ended. Furthermore, the bitter experience of the fifties and late sixties, coupled with the bad examples in a number of neighbouring Arab countries, heightened the political awareness of the Jordanian people making them far more cautious and infinitely less impulsive. The stability the regime was able to provide proved to be a major priority to our society and the great majority of the people continued to be pacific. It is under these circumstances that concern over the future of Jordan began

to reappear despite the apparent calm.

As soon as our political system began to show signs of fatigue, the King stepped in. It is a matter of historical record that His Majesty has irrevocably committed himself to a process of political liberalisation. The rapid strides Jordan is taking towards a more open, more representative, and more efficient form of government are impressive by any standard. The country is very fortunate that this transformation was initiated by and is being presided over by the King himself. In other Third World societies attempts at reform are often accompanied by serious political upheaval and great human suffering. For the first time in many decades most Jordanians are content with the pace and direction of the country's political development. Only the eventual success of the intricate task of creating an institutionalised policy would stamp out fears over Jordan's future stability.

The strong reaction to the King's illness surely shows that the great majority of Jordanians are greatly reassured that His Majesty remains at the helm at this critical juncture of our political development.

A second danger to the future political stability of Jordan lies in our political elite's haste to transform the political system into a full fledged democracy motivated by the simple-minded belief that this task can be easily accomplished by the mere passing of

extension of one's wishes and desires. To ensure that individuals and groups possess the willingness and ability to share, to tolerate, and to co-exist. To develop a co-operative as opposed to a conflictual approach to life, and to reject discord in favour of collaboration.

Second, differences between various groups should be limited to the ways and means of achieving shared goals rather than differences over the goals themselves. This presupposes a high degree of social cohesion. Only a high degree of political maturity can make democracy work in societies lacking such social cohesion.

Third, a successful democratic system requires the existence of a highly developed political elite capable of grasping complex public issues, and formulating political ideologies that are readily convertible into concrete political, economic, and social programmes.

In short, democracy succeeds when it becomes possible to convert the political arena into a platform for a constructive political dialogue as the main mechanism in the vital process of consensus building. Consensus building is important not only for the purpose of creating a governing majority but also for ensuring the representation, in terms of values and interests, of every segment of society.

Our society's political makeup, as reflected in the distribution of

"His Majesty the King is the only individual who has the power and authority to ensure that social and political equilibrium is maintained. He has never been inclined to favour a particular group or to sympathise with a particular ideology. A great part of his political influence and moral power rests precisely on this ability to stand outside and above, to give direction and set the pace, to act as arbiter and conciliator, to curb excess and diffuse tension."

laws and the establishment of political parties, and the failure to realise that democracy is not necessarily a stabilising factor in society!

Democracy cannot be established by the mere adoption of ready-made formulas. Being a social system, it has no independent existence of its own, such as a computer, a television set, or a car. A democratic system can be brought into life only through human behaviour. Its essence, therefore, is moulded by the existing individual and collective attributes of the human beings forming the wider social environment. And since human beings are capable of acquiring an infinite variety of attributes, the essence of a democratic system can accordingly acquire radically different forms. Just as, under certain exacting conditions, it can serve as a mechanism for peaceful social change, an avenue for the realisation of human liberty, and a method for achieving human dignity and happiness, it can, under different conditions, become a mechanism for the weakening of the foundations of society.

The successful application of a democratic form of government presupposes the existence of certain highly developed mental faculties, behavioural attributes, and human values, which would enable, if not the development of Rousseau's general will, at least, the recognition that one lives in a society that is not merely an

be able to communicate them to the masses in a simple and coherent manner. It also includes the collective task of reconciling the conflicting demands of various groups and organisations within society and formulating one national political programme acceptable to the great majority of the populace.

The absence of a capable political elite explains the weakness, in terms of ideological awareness and organisation, of our political centre as well as the relative strength of the right and left. The centre is absent simply because no group capable of providing it with intellectual as well as political leadership exists. The left and the right overcame the same shortcoming by resorting to readymade, readily available ideologies, though they still lack the capacity of converting these ideologies into concrete political programmes. This inability is also due to the holistic nature of their ideologies which produces programmes for the permanent structural transformation to be accomplished within the existing pluralistic structure. Such ideologies are, by definition, undemocratic, if the proposed change of structure restricts society's future freedom of choice.

A further problem with the ideologies of the extremes lies in the absolute, unyielding and uncompromising nature of their value systems, making it difficult to accommodate other value systems or coexist with them. One of the main problems of a democratic society is the difficulty of reconciling loyalty to the group with loyalty to society as a whole. While a governing majority rules society as a whole, it represents only a segment of that society. If this majority uses its control of government to reflect the values and further the interests of the political base it represents and ignores those of the minority, grave results will follow. The minority will not willingly submit. The gulf between the two groups will widen. The minority might start looking for "unpermissible" ways to protect its interests, and the majority might be tempted to coerce the minority into submitting to its will. If the minority becomes a future majority it will be likely to use authority in the same manner. In short, democratic institutions will be converted into an arena of intense conflict. Whatever cleavages initially existed in society will be widened and loyalty to one's group will intensify while loyalty to society will be greatly weakened.

To make up for their incapacity to put forth substantive political programmes, our political parties formulate political platforms rich in slogans and emotional appeal at the expense of issues and solutions. But since no politician or political party has a monopoly on slogans, the only way left to compete would be to increase their intensity, leading thereby to excess and extremism, a result contrary to the requirements of successful consensus building. The same consideration will lead to a tendency to present views and persons, and distinguish them from one another, in a simplified black and white manner, using terms such as the progressive versus the reactionary, the loyal versus the traitorous, and the faithful versus the infidel. Such a tendency is also not conducive to compromise.

Slogan-filled political platforms and the difficulty of translating them into specific and concrete proposals or policies might compel the party in question to reject all policies that do not conform with them: Such ideologies, therefore, would neither enable the party in question to participate in a government with a coherent political programme designed to deal with specific issues or strive to achieve certain clearly

defined goals, nor enable it to engage in constructive opposition since such a role presupposes the existence of an alternative to the government's overall programme, if it exists, or every policy or measure being proposed.

It is obvious that our shortcomings are structural in nature, resulting in a weak and underrepresented political centre. A moderate political centre is the glue and the lubricant of a democratic society. It serves as a bridge between left and right, its strength acts as a moderating element on extreme political forces, and it performs the role of political balancer by throwing its weight in on one scale or the other, as the situation warrants.

The moderate nature of centrist ideologies puts them at a disadvantage in discontented societies. Their platforms cannot compete with the strong popular appeal of radical ideologies, nor serve as an agent for the release of mass frustration and discontent. Therefore, moderate ideologies will thrive only when the underlying causes of our society's discontent are successfully dealt with.

While some causes of our society's frustrations emanate from external sources and are beyond our control, others are indigenous.

We can make a good start by overhauling the civil service and the bureaucracy, stamping out corruption and incompetence and eliminating economic waste. But the future of democracy and stability in Jordan will in the end be determined by our ability to engage in a long-term sustainable process of sound economic and social development whose very success would trigger and sustain a successful process of political socialisation, so vital in a pluralistic society.

Progress, while certainly attainable, is not spontaneous in human society. The same human species produced societies as stable and prosperous as Sweden and Switzerland and as tragic as Lebanon, Somalia, and the former Yugoslavia. More specifically, there exists no intrinsic mechanism to achieve social and political equilibrium in human society. Such an equilibrium is something to strive for, it can only be attained through a conscious human effort which is rational and purposeful, while prolonged stagnation might result in an explosion of uncontrollable and undirected change. Hurried and ill-considered attempts to transform society from one state to another might end in disaster. The recent history of the Third World provides ample examples of the dangerous consequences of hasty plunges into the most demanding form of government known to human society. We should, therefore, be very cautious in our approach and not confuse the ends with the means. Let us also recognise not only that we are at the very beginning of an arduous process, but also that we have a very long way to go.

The most vital role in this highly critical stage of our development remains that of His Majesty the King. He is the only individual who has the power and authority, moral as well as political, to ensure that social and political equilibrium is maintained. He has never been inclined to favour a particular group or to sympathise with a particular ideology. A great part of his political influence and moral power rests on precisely this ability to stand outside and above, to give direction and set the pace, to act as arbiter and conciliator, and to curb excess and diffuse tension. We can all perform a great service to our society by following examples of prudence, reasonableness, rationality, and moderation.

Handwritings introduced in case

(Continued from page 1)

drew defence objections based on what they described as "surprises." Maj. Hijazi last week announced that new footprints were found on the roof of the building in which the third defendant, Ahmad Ayoubi, resided, and that the defendant's father-in-law would testify. That was the second time the prosecution announced new evidence and witnesses after the trial began.

Aqil Kamal, a driver, testified that the day after he returned from a month-long trip to Iraq, he attended his first court session on Oct. 6. The 54-year-old witness said that he left the court halfway through the session to search both his home and his daughter's (and Mr. Ayoubi's) house, which are in the same building on Jabal Hussein.

He said he did not find anything in either house, but that he found two plastic bags under two different water tanks on the roof containing explosive material, including two TNT cubes, a hand-grenade without its bin, pipe bombs, electricity wires and small metal pieces. Mr. Kamal said he took the material he found to the General Intelligence Department (GID) after failing to find Maj. Hijazi. An officer at the GID accompanied him later to the prosecutor's office where he gave his testimony.

The cross-examination by Marwan Al Kayed, the lawyer defending both Mr. Ayoubi and his business partner Abdul Hamid Idkedek (fourth defendant), focused on his clients' pleas that their aim was to work (against Israel) in the occupied territories and not inside Jordan.

Mr. Kamal said that Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkedek were imprisoned by the Israeli authorities, and that Mr. Idkedek's brother fell a "martyr" when he placed an explosive against an Israeli target in the occupied West Bank.

"I know that the two were working for the occupied territories... and they never said they were planning sabotage activity inside Jordan," Mr. Kamal told the court in response to Mr. Kayed's question.

All four defendants in Al Nafeer case are charged with belonging to an illegal armed group which aims to topple the regime in Jordan and carrying out subversive activities in the Kingdom. Both deputies have pleaded not guilty to the charges against them.

Mr. Shbeilat faces seven charges, Sheikh Qarash faces five and the two others face three charges.

Mr. Ayoubi and Mr. Idkedek pleaded guilty to belonging to an illegal group and possession of arms and explosives, but they denied any plots to overthrow the regime or to

use violence inside Jordan.

The second witness on Tuesday, Major Hamed Al Amr of the police department, who testified for the prosecution as a handwriting expert, said that the writing on a small brown photo album belonged to Mr. Shbeilat.

The contents of the photo album, which the prosecution is using to support the charges against Mr. Shbeilat that he slandered His Majesty the King, was the focus of the defence's cross-examination of the expert.

Maj. Amr, who was still under oath after presenting his evidence to the court previously, outlined his credentials as a handwriting expert for 10 years and gave a detailed presentation of the scientific methodology and equipment used to analyse handwritings.

Responding to questions asked by Zuhair Abu Ragheb, one of Mr. Shbeilat's lawyers, Maj. Amr insisted that the equipment and methods used were accurate to identify Mr. Shbeilat's handwriting, but said that "two experts could differ in the analyses."

Mr. Bakr, seeking to establish that the handwriting on the album did not belong to Mr. Shbeilat, was permitted to stand next to the witness and question Maj. Amr on certain writings in the album and the handwriting sample taken from Mr. Shbeilat.

Li. Col. Fauri constantly asks witnesses to keep their eyes on the witness stand when being cross-examined by the defence.

Much of the question-answer session between Mr. Shbeilat's defence and Maj. Amr dealt with the name "Sami Al Ajrab" written in a number of pages in the album. Mr. Bakr asked the witness why he did not examine the owner of this name to have him write specimen since this name was written at the bottom of some of the writings in the album.

"If I found that Sami Al Ajrab's name was written in the same handwriting as the rest of the writings in the album, why should I summon him?" Maj. Amr asked, "Sami Al Ajrab" was, in my expert opinion, written by Laith Shbeilat."

Maj. Amr then made a comment, which Mr. Bakr insisted that the court register on record, where he said: "If I like a poem, I would write it down and write the name of the poet."

It was not clear who Sami Al Ajrab was, but Maj. Amr said that he later found out from Mr. Shbeilat himself that the man was from the Jordan Valley. In a later response to a question by Maj. Hijazi, the police expert said that Mr. Shbeilat had also told him: "I keep everything in my office and this album deals with a complaint from a citizen."

Prosecution sources had said that

the album contains a picture of a destroyed house and that next to it was writing of a well-known saying by King Hussein about "building this nation." The press has been unable to see the album and its contents.

Mr. Bakr, standing by the witness who was dressed in his formal blue uniform, showed Maj. Amr samples of writings from the album and the sample taken by the prosecution and asked him whether certain letters were written differently on the two samples. Maj. Amr insisted that the handwriting on both belonged to Mr. Shbeilat, although they appear to look different. But after a persistent particular question by the lawyer, Maj. Amr said: "The handwriting on the album is nicer" than that on the sample writing.

Responding to a Qarash lawyer, Jamal Dmour, Maj. Amr denied that the deputy had refused to write a sample unless his lawyer was present. "On the contrary, he was writing before I dictated to him what to write," the officer said.

Mr. Dmour, who appeared to be seeking to establish that his client was forced to write down things under duress, asked Maj. Amr whether he told Sheikh Qarash to write the sample for the sake of proving his innocence. Maj. Amr denied it.

Before the court was adjourned until Sunday, the prosecutor requested "time to present the rest of my evidence," to which statement the defence lawyers reacted with visible signs of displeasure and alarm.

After being formally asked by Mr. Abu Arkoub whether the prosecution had any new witnesses or evidence, as the case turned out to be twice before Maj. Hijazi answered that he still had two more witnesses — one of which was mentioned in the chargesheet and the other approved by the court but who has not testified yet.

No 'collapse' of London Club talks

(Continued from page 1)

months during which Jordan could negotiate in an atmosphere free of any pressure."

Jordan has not been able to finalise any agreement with the London Club despite efforts launched in 1989, after the Kingdom faced a severe economic crisis and had to devalue the dinar.

An accord reached in principle in 1989 was scrambled by the Gulf crisis, which left deep scars in the Jordanian economy and forced the Kingdom to suspend debt repayments and rescheduling negotiations.

It resumed the frozen negotiations in February this year after securing an IMF endorsement of its adherence to an economic restructuring and revival programme.

At least two proposals tabled by the London Club steering committee, chaired by the Standard Chartered Bank, were turned down by Jordan, which insisted on better terms. Details of the club's offers were not immediately available. But a Western source familiar with the talks said: "Let us say the offered terms were not exactly what Jordan was looking for."

According to this source, the London Club was known to have been seeking a one-time payment representing "the bulk of Jordan's commercial debts" and rescheduling of the rest, with no options of conversion into invest-

ments in Jordan or Jordanian dinars as the Kingdom had suggested.

"They were willing for a discounted sale of Jordanian papers (debts) but, again, not at a rate that was acceptable to Jordan," the source added without elaboration.

Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Governor Mohammad Saeed Al Nabulsi said earlier this month that Jordan paid \$30 million to London Club members. The source who spoke to the Jordan Times explained that this amount represented payments overdue to some of the creditor banks which had accepted Jordan's terms.

Economic experts dismissed as irrelevant Al Hayat suggestions that the creditor banks could make things difficult for Jordan by refusing letters of credit issued by Jordanian banks.

"There are dozens of international banks out there which will be more than happy to accommodate Jordanian commercial banks at a rate even cheaper than some of the London Club members," said an analyst.

"Jordanian banks are estimated to have about \$4 billion in deposits abroad and this in itself is the best guarantee of their strength as far as international banks are concerned."

"The loser will not be Jordan, but the banks that choose to reject Jordanian letters of credit," he added.

Palestinian delegates head for Tunis

(Continued from page 1)

Labour government by securing external assistance; and continue to stall over the basic concept of land-in-exchange for peace."

"They might change their language a bit here, a bit there, but the essential objective will be to bring divisions within the Arab side," he said, adding that the upbeat Israeli assertions of "tangible progress" with Syria were part of the Jewish state's approach.

"The Arabs have to be very watchful and alert against the Israeli tactics and should boost their coordination and common positions," he said.

On the second "prong," he said, Israel has already secured American loan guarantees worth \$10 million and is now seeking similar assistance from Europe and Japan.

Against the backdrop of these approaches, Israel will also continue to stonewall over U.N. Security Council Resolution 242, which calls for Israeli withdrawal from the Arab territories occupied in the 1967 war, he said.

"Even on the Jordanian-Israeli track, the Israelis are talking about 'disputed' land instead of 'occupied territory'," Dr. Erakat noted.

The Palestinians will go the seventh round of talks seeking "answers" to the questions they posed to Israel during the sixth round, he said.

The main thrust of the questions, he explained, is to define and clarify Israel's position: "Is there one peace process in two stages or two peace processes?"

"We cannot accept two processes with no linkage," he added, referring to an interim period during which the Palestinians will have "autonomy" in the occupied territories pending a final settlement of the core conflict.

"All stages in the peace process should be linked from the very beginning and the implementation of agreements should be clearly spelled out and defined," he said.

In addition, Israel should come forth in unambiguous terms towards the issue of settlements, Arab Jerusalem, human rights of the Palestinian people, water-sharing and the problem of refugees, he said.

"Unless and until Israel comes clear on the questions we put to them and the issues that we listed, no progress could be made in the peace talks," Dr. Erakat said.

Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi meanwhile set a December deadline for a breakthrough in the peace process if the negotiations were to continue without external help after the American presidential elections in November.

"If by December we have not achieved something concrete then I think it will be very difficult to describe the (peace) process as an ongoing, self-moving, self-developing process," Dr. Ashrawi was quoted as telling journalists in occupied Jerusalem.

According to Dr. Ashrawi, whoever won the elections — President George Bush or challenger Bill Clinton — would turn to domestic American affairs from foreign policy.

"I think that between now and

December we should achieve something that would generate a self-sustaining dynamic," he said.

"If not, then I am afraid that whoever comes into office in January... it will be very difficult to inject some energy into a peace process that has not in a sense developed its own basis and own energy."

Dr. Erakat told the Jordan Times in Amman that Palestinian delegates had been going around the occupied territories briefing the people on the peace process.

"I myself held at least 12 debates since the end of the sixth round," he said. The message that he and other delegates were conveying, he said, essentially dealt with the gritty details of the talks and how the delegation was countering Israeli tactics.

Palestinian

(Continued from page 1)

there is a political motive, motivated by the extreme (Palestinian) factions."

The youth who died Tuesday was at least the fourth killed in confrontations with Israeli troops during Palestinian demonstrations in support of the hunger-strikers. Scores of other Palestinians have been injured, mainly by rubber bullets and tear gas inhalation.

Faraj Ziyad Asousi, 12, of Gaza City had been shot in the head by troops during a stone-throwing confrontation on Oct. 6.

Panic sweeps Cairo after quake

(Continued from page 1)

research institute for astronomy and geophysics.

The Richter 6.9 earthquake that struck northern California on Oct. 17, 1989, caused 10 times as much earth movement but killed 67 people.

Cairo's buildings often fall even without earthquakes. The most recent collapse was one week ago, when a four-storey building fell, killing six people.

Many of Monday's deaths were not from buildings collapsing, but from people being trampled in panicked stampedes. Seven children died and more than 100 were injured in the Cairo area as they rushed from swaying schools, said Rida Abdul Aziz, an assistant interior minister.

The earthquake brought an outpouring of sympathy and

pledges of aid and support from other countries in the Middle East.

Leaders of the Saudi Arabian-led group of Gulf Arab states, a region closely interlinked with Egypt, rushed money and aid.

Iran, which has had strained relations with Cairo, announced its readiness to help.

Traditional close links with the Gulf Arab countries have been intensified since Egypt became their leading Arab ally after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

A French team flew in with sensors and sniffer dogs and Kuwait sent a plane load of food, medicine, tents and blankets for the victims of the disaster.

Muslim fundamentalists, the main political opposition in Egypt, competed with the government to bring relief to the bereaved and homeless.

The government promised 500 Egyptian pounds (\$150) to the families of the dead and 200 (\$60) to the injured. By mid-afternoon, officials at a metal table in the grounds of a hospital in the northern slum district of Shubra Al Khaymah had started to hand out money to applicants.

The doctors' union, dominated by fundamentalists, said it was offering 200 pounds to the families of the dead, 100 pounds (\$30) to families of the injured and 100 pounds to families whose houses had been damaged.

The fundamentalists have built their strength by providing cheap clinics and schools and aid for the poor, services that ill-funded and bureaucratic government departments find hard to match.



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Rick Mahorn wants to return to Pistons

DETROIT (AP) — Former Pistons forward Rick Mahorn, cut by his Italian League team after a locker room outburst, wants to return to Detroit, his agent has said.

The Pistons said they might be interested, but signing Mahorn would force a roster cut to keep the team under the league's salary cap.

"I think it would be in Rick's best interest to return to Detroit," Mahorn's agent, Alton Waldon, said. "We have talked to the Pistons about his return and there is interest."

"If Rick were to become available, we would definitely have to take a look at the situation," said Billy McKinney, the Pistons' director of player personnel.

McKinney said the team has spoken informally with Mahorn.

Mahorn, 34, played with the Pistons from 1985-89, including the team's 1989 NBA championship season. He was a starter on the first of Detroit's back-to-

back title teams and his physical style helped the team earn the nickname "bad boys."

Detroit left Mahorn unprotected in the expansion draft after the 1989 season. He was taken by Minnesota and traded to Philadelphia, which released him before last season.

Waldon said Mahorn's Italian team, Il Messaggero, released him Friday after he swore at coach Paolo D'Amico and broke a chair against a locker.

Waldon said the Italian team cut Mahorn to avoid paying the remaining 1.9 million on his contract.

The Pistons will wait until Mahorn's firing is official at the end of a 20-day hearing process in Italy before considering making an offer, McKinney said.

The Pistons are 900 under the NBA's salary cap, so they would have to release someone just to pay Mahorn the league's minimum \$140,000 salary.

SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Becker beats Prpic, Lendl struggles

TOKYO (AP) — Third-seeded Boris Becker served his way to victory over Goran Prpic of Croatia Tuesday while Ivan Lendl struggled to beat American Todd Martin in the second round of the \$1.1 million Seiko Super tennis tournament. Niclas Kroon of Sweden upset 13th-seeded Derrick Rostagno of the United States, a finalist in this tournament last year, 7-6 (7-5), 6-3. Becker blasted 13 aces in his 6-4, 7-5 victory on the artificial court of the Tokyo Metropolitan Gymnasium. "No Break points," Becker, ranked No. 6 in the world, said of his serving. "He (Prpic) is a clay court specialist but he did a good job."

Montana suffers another medical setback

SANTA CLARA, California (AP) — San Francisco 49ers officials are hopeful that quarterback Joe Montana's latest medical setback is only temporary. Montana, who had surgery Sept. 12 to clear up scar tissue in his right elbow, last threw the football Sept. 26. Since then, a numbness has developed in the two lower fingers on his right hand and the medical staff has ordered him not to throw. Team president Carmen Policy said Monday that Montana's condition is being monitored daily, and that the current prescription includes rest and light rehabilitation.

Matthaeus returns for Germany

DRESDEN (R) — Germany World Cup captain Lothar Matthaeus, who missed the European Championship after a serious knee operation, returns to international soccer in a friendly against Mexico Wednesday. The 31-year-old midfielder, who has not played for the national side for seven months and played his first match for his new club Bayern Munich only last month, was named Tuesday in the world champions' side for the Dresden clash.

World Cup qualifying roundup

Dutch make changes for Poland match

ROTTERDAM (R) — Dutch coach Dick Advocaat has made sweeping changes to his team for the World Cup group two qualifier against injury-hit Poland Wednesday after a stinging defeat in Norway last month.

"We need a victory because it would bring our fate into our own hands. If we don't win we'll have to rely on the results of other countries to get to finals," said Advocaat, who is still waiting for his first win as national coach.

In a training match against the Dutch under-21 side Advocaat changed eight positions, with only goalkeeper Stacey Menzo, libero Ronald Koeman and striker Marco Van Basten keeping the positions they filled against Norway.

Advocaat also switched tactics from a defensive 4-4-2 system to 3-4-3 — a method favoured by his predecessor Rinus Michels in the run-up to the European championship finals.

The changes mean the Dutch will be playing without their traditional wingers. "I don't see that as a problem," Advocaat said. "Who still plays with wingers at international level?"

Advocaat has dropped Ajax defender Danny Blind and Frank De Boer, Feyenoord striker Gaston Taument and Genoa winger John Van 't Schip from the squad.

He has brought in PSV defender Berry van Aerle, Ajax midfielder Wim Jonk, Gerald Vanenburg of PSV and Anderlecht striker Peter Van Vossen. Van Aerle is just back from injury.

Advocaat also had to replace Ajax defender Sonny Silooy, who has an ankle injury, with Feyenoord defender Henk Fraser.

Poland coach Andrzej Strelan, his preparations hit by player withdrawals, said niggling injuries had prevented him holding a single full practice since the squad arrived in Rotterdam last week.

"The situation changes from hour to hour," Strelan said. "We have not had a complete training session on any day."

Italy without Baresi

ROME (R) — AC Milan full back Mauro Tassotti is set to become the oldest debutant in Italy's international soccer history as coach Arrigo Sacchi reshapes his defence for the World Cup qualifier against Switzerland Wednesday.

The Milan player, 33 next January, gets his chance after the surprise decision of clubmate Franco Baresi, ironically a few months his junior, to end his long international career.

The elegant Baresi, who won more than 60 caps for Italy, said earlier this month that he would quit the national team to spend more time with his family.

Tassotti will slot in at his usual right back berth with Alberto Di Chiara of Parma moving to left back, thus allowing Paolo Maldini of Milan to take Baresi's libero role.

Maldini, one of the best attacking full backs in the world, was originally unhappy about the switch but appears reconciled to his new post.

"I have an important tactical role in the absence of Baresi, but no-one can really replace him," he said.

The European group one tie in Cagliari is Italy's opening match in the campaign for the 1994 finals.

Sacchi's side will be keen to make up some ground on the Swiss, who lead the standings after winning their first two games.

Two sides qualify from a six-strong group which also includes Scotland and Portugal.

France and Austria try to halt plunge

PARIS (R) — France and Austria go into their World Cup tie Wednesday like a pair of parachutists desperately trying to pull the rip-cord before they hit the ground.

With the decline of their national teams' soccer fortunes accelerating at a frightening rate, the French and Austrians are in a free fall that can be halted only by a long-overdue victory in the European group six qualifier at the Parc Des Princes.

Both sides seem to be paralysed by a collective fear which can be roused merely by whispering the words "Malmo" or "Faroe Islands" respectively.

While the French are still reeling from the trauma of a disastrous European Championship campaign in Sweden, culminating in the shock defeat by Denmark in Malmo, Austria are at an even lower altitude and staring straight down a bottomless pit.

If Austria have a chance, it is solely because France have been self-destructing alarmingly over the past year.

Since Michel Platini patiently built a side which became the envy of Europe and went almost three years without defeat, France have suffered Malmo, 11 months without a win and the loss of Platini as team boss.

Stepping into Platini's shoes could never be easy and new

trainer Gerard Houllier has had it tough. His team have lost their first two matches under his guidance without scoring, including a 2-0 defeat in a World Cup qualifier in Bulgaria, who with Sweden have emerged as favourites for the two qualifying berths.

The good news for Houllier is that his main asset, European player of the year Jean-Pierre Papin, scored twice for new club AC Milan in the Italian Cup last week and that his fickle striking partner Eric Cantona has agreed to play for the national team again.

England pin hopes on Shearer and Wright

LONDON (R) — England are pinning their World Cup hopes on the goalscoring talents of novice international strikers Alan Shearer and Ian Wright and an unfit Paul Gascoigne in the qualifier against Norway Wednesday.

Manager Graham Taylor, desperate for goals to reverse his fortunes after England's dismal showing in the European Championship finals and four games without a win, is putting his faith in the club form of Shearer and Wright.

Without the retired Gary Lineker, Taylor took the unusual step of saying at the weekend that the two forwards, who between them have scored only one goal in nine international appearances, would play together.

Shearer, who moved from Southampton to Blackburn in the close season, is in outstanding form with 12 goals in 11 league games. Since moving to Arsenal, Wright has scored 31 goals in 40 games.

Shearer, who scored on his debut, has played four international matches and Wright five.

Taylor is also expected to risk playing Gascoigne for part of the match, even though the Lazio player admits he is short of match fitness.

Gascoigne, one of England's most talented players, has failed to finish the three matches he has played this season since recovering tearing knee ligaments 17 months ago.

Norway came to Wembley with their confidence high after beating the Netherlands and scoring 12 goals in two victories against San Marino.

Denmark go into Wednesday's World Cup qualifier against Ireland under pressure to gain vital points and to prove they are worthy European champions.

Danish euphoria after the sensational triumph over Germany in the European final in June has given way to soul-searching following a humiliating away draw against Latvia and Lithuania in World Cup qualifiers.

"We have not been able to cope with the enormous pressure and responsibility of playing as European champions," admitted goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel.

Now they need a home win against the Irish who lead qualifying group three with maximum points from two games.

"A defeat would make it virtually impossible to qualify for the 1994 World Cup finals. But if we win, we are definitely in the running," said playmaker Brian Laudrup.

Ireland manager Jack Charlton said that after watching the Danes against Latvia and Lithuania he felt they were "a bit down."

Injury has deprived Charlton of Defenders Paul McGrath, Mick McCarthy and Steve Staunton and midfielder Ronnie Whelan, while winger Kevin Sheedy is doubtful with a thigh injury.

"The beauty of this squad is that, no matter who drops out, I know I've still got people who can come in and know exactly what is required of them," said the unworried Charlton.

Grun to lead Belgium

BRUSSELS (R) — Coach Paul Van Himst has taken a risk in handing the vital sweeper role to Georges Grun as Belgium seek their fourth World Cup qualifying win against Romania Wednesday.

Both sides have a 100 per cent record in group four, which also includes Czechoslovakia and Wales, and Van Himst believes another victory will virtually guarantee them a place in the finals in the United States.

But Van Himst, who considers Romania their strongest opponents, has been forced to change the team which beat Czechoslovakia last month after mercurial sweeper Mark Emmers suffered a knee injury. He will be sidelined for five months.

"Grun's an old hand, has lots of experience," Van Himst said of his captain, who plays for Italy's Parma.

Van Himst knows Romania will be riding high on confidence after thrashing Wales 5-1 and the Faroes 7-0 in their opening group four games.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 14, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: The evening eliminates the tensions and strains which have put a damper on the earlier part of the day when the Moon was void of course awaiting its entry into Gemini late this afternoon.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Make sure you do nothing to risk on in any position of influence early in the day while later you need to use more than ordinary care in career matters.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't do anything early at work that can cause criticism by one in a powerful position while later it is necessary to be more open to new opportunities.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) A promise you have made may seem to be holding you back but unless you attend to it in a satisfactory manner it could cause you some unnecessary loss.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Think over what can be accomplished of a worldly nature without upsetting the good will you have with those who dwell beneath your roof.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Stick to whatever activities that can bring you the most practical and materialistic results and avoid an associate who dwells in day-dreaming.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Take some time out to find out more exactly what a pleasure will cost or entail of your time and effort before you commit yourself to engage in it.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You are to be too worried about some condition at home but this is not the time to take any drastic action to attempt to improve conditions.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Trying to work some obtrusive angle can keep you from getting out and gaining information available to you for some important reason.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you do today try to make it of a very practical and financial nature if you wish to get best results and forget merely personal whims.

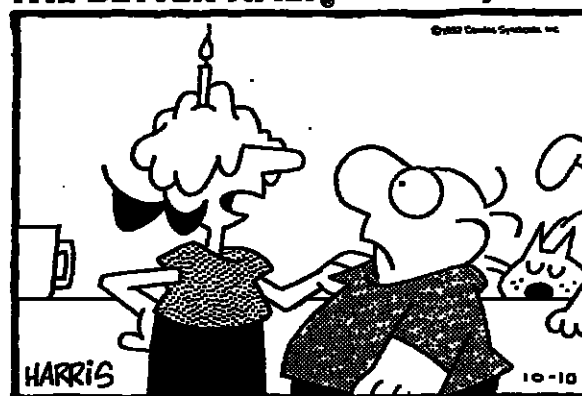
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Keep your efforts centered now upon gaining the personal conditions that most appeal to you and avoid outside pressures as much as possible.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) You would be wise to forget that desire to go off on a tangent and to get into the down to earth aspects of your progress with a confidential advisor in private.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Let some arrangements with a businessperson be put off until another time while you back up a good friend who is disturbed about some conditions.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"There's a new trainee at the beauty shop. I told her I wanted my hair frosted."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

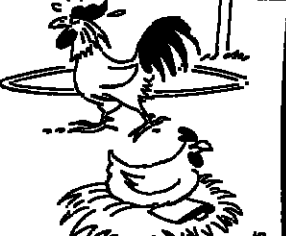
Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

VATLE

SHAMC

THANYS

CHELEK



WHY THE HEN SAT ON AN AX.

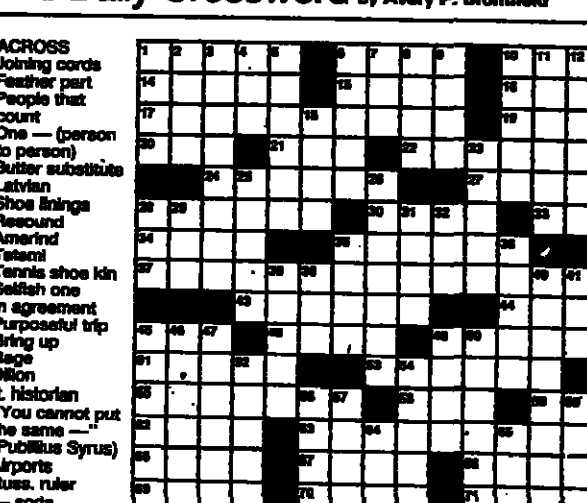
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: SO SHE COULD "OOO-OO-OO"

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: FLOUT CAMEO JUMPER DIVERF
Answer: People who keep putting things off usually never do this—PUT THEM OVER

THE Daily Crossword by Avery P. Bromfield



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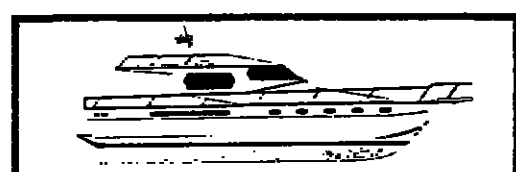
Across
1 Joining words
6 Feather part
10 People that count
14 One (person to person)
15 Butter substitute
18 Latin
17 Shoe linge
18 Resound
20 Amaretto
21 Tense
22 Tennis shoe ldn
24 Seltish one
27 In agreement
28 Purposeful trip
30 Bring up
34 Ditch
35 It, historian
37 "You cannot put the same" (Pothius Syrus)
43 Airports
44 Russ. ruler
45 Soda
48 Hero
49 Wounded tract
51 Organic compound
53 Archipel
55 Interstellar dust masses
58 Employ
59 Hagard
60 — Scott
63 Heavy shoe
66 Philippine tree
67 Circle
68 Diamond and Simon
69 Not so much
70 Side
71 — Hall

Down
1 Clerk Kent's girl
2 Metro
3 Musical piece
4 Cornish pt.
5 Horally
6 Footwear
7 Everything
8 "The Life of Riley" Larry
9 Ship's officer
10 Shoe feature
11 "Peter Piper" picked a —
12 Goddess of wisdom
13 Warehouse
14 Uttered
15 Aboard of time
16 Having a portal
18 Journeys
19 Printer's spaces
20 Cheating word
21 Holiday times
22 Varieties
23 Salesman's car
26 Burning
28 Day window
29 Dazz
30 Kind of rotation
41 Alliance letters
42 Explosive
45 Open shoe
46 Fine
47 Defines in a way
48 Herring or mackerel
50 — Grotian
51 —
52 Some paintings
54 Obese
56 Farm measure
57 Lamb
60 Sure prof.
61 Gaelic
62 Each words
65 Corral

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANNAN HIRSCH
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HANDLE WITH CARE

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ K 7 4
♥ K 9 3
♦ A K Q 2
♣ J 5

EAST
♠ J 9 6 5 2
♥ 7 4
♦ 8 5 4 3
♣ 9 7 6

SOUTH
♠ A Q
♥ J 10 8 5 2
♦ 10 10
♣ Q 10 6 3

The bidding:

West North East South
1 ♠ Db1 Pass 2 ♠
Pass 3 ♠ Pass 4 ♠
Pass Pass Pass

Opening lead: King of ♠

Looking at all four hands, it seems that, with the queen of trumps outside, declarer should have no trouble making four hearts.

Would you rather play or defend?

South's jump in response to the takeout double is not forcing. It shows a hand of 9-11 points and does not even promise a five-card suit. Because of the law of only

South had enough in reserve to proceed to game.

It might seem that declarer has little to worry about after the defense starts with three rounds of clubs. Declarer wins in hand and runs the jack of hearts. A repeat finesse picks up the queen and South loses only two clubs and one trump.

However, that presumes West will not find the best defense. On the first trump lead, West should rise with the ace and return a club. To prevent East from ruffing declarer must ruff with dummy's nine. Although that wins, declarer can no longer pick up West's queen of trumps—down one.

Did that persuade you to defend? Sorry, you lose. Since West must have the queen of hearts if the contract is to succeed, declarer should take into account that A-Q is a more likely holding than A-K-Q.

The only chance to neutralize that trump holding while maintaining sufficient links to hand is for declarer to play three top diamonds, discarding a club from hand. South can then come to hand with the ace of spades to take the trump finesse and

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	NEW YORK CLOSE	TOKYO CLOSE
Sterling Pound*	1.7063	1.7015
Deutsche Mark	1.4683	1.4830
Swiss Franc	1.3078	1.3171
French Franc	5.0050	5.0360**
Japanese Yen	120.72	121.60
European Currency Unit	1.3345***	1.3160**

* USD Per STG
** European Opening @ 8:00 a.m. GMT

Remittance Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	3.12	3.25	3.25	3.43
Sterling Pound	8.68	8.43	8.31	8.06
Deutsche Mark	8.93	8.75	8.43	8.06
Swiss Franc	6.15	6.25	6.25	6.12
French Franc	11.43	11.00	10.72	9.62
Japanese Yen	4.00	3.84	3.68	3.55
European Currency Unit	11.50	11.31	10.62	10.12

Interbank bid rates for amounts exceeding U.S. Dollars 1,000,000 or equivalent.

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	346.05	6.75	Silver	5.75	.082

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.679	0.681
Sterling Pound	1.1613	1.1671
Deutsche Mark	0.4575	0.4598
Swiss Franc	0.5152	0.5178
French Franc	0.1348	0.1355
Japanese Yen*	0.5580	0.5608
Dutch Guilder	0.1066	0.1086
Swedish Krona	0.1219	0.1225
Italian Lira*	-0.0585	0.0528
Belgian Franc	0.02235	0.02246

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7790	1.7970
Lebanese Lira*	0.02775	0.02975
Saudi Riyal	0.1807	0.1818
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2350	2.3000
Qatari Riyal	0.1840	0.1858
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.7320	1.7520
UAE Dirham	0.1840	0.1858
Greek Drachma*	0.3555	0.3755
Cypriot Pound	1.5270	1.5470

* Per 100

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Markets

Index	11/10/92	Close	12/10/92	Close
All-Share	151.80		151.69	
Banking Sector	115.43		115.48	
Insurance Sector	160.70		161.98	
Industry Sector	198.23		197.66	
Services Sector	219.69		220.15	

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midsession on the London Foreign Exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.

One sterling	1.7100/10	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.2396/401	Canadian dollar
	1.4815/25	Deutsche marks
	1.6650/80	Dutch guilders
	1.3215/30	Swiss francs
	30.52/56	Belgian francs
	5.0275/325	French francs
	1300/10	Italian lire
	121.70/80	Japanese yen
	5.5530/630	Swedish crowns
	6.0100/200	Norwegian crowns
	5.7050/150	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	\$343.80/344.30	

British Coal makes drastic cuts in work force

LONDON (AP) — British Coal, a symbol of Conservative Party dominance since Margaret Thatcher's government tamed the once-militant miners union, said Tuesday it will stop production at 31 mines and lay off more than half its workers.

National Union of Mineworkers President Arthur Scargill called the closures that will leave 30,000 people jobless the "most savage brutal act of vandalism in modern times."

After the cuts are made by March, British Coal will have just 19 mines and employ 18,000 people producing coal.

The drastic cuts reflect growing economic hardship in recession-plagued Britain, which once employed more than a million miners as coal fueled the nation's emergence as an industrial superpower.

The British coal industry has been devastated by alternative energy sources and new mining technology that has vastly increased the amount of coal produced by each miner.

British Coal Chairman Neil Clarke, speaking at the London

headquarters of the state-run coal giant, blamed the cutbacks on a fall in coal demand by 13 per cent from 1980 to 1990, including an eight per cent drop in demand from the electricity generating industry.

Britain now faces a coal glut with some industries holding onto piles of coal that could last well into next year, British Coal said.

The "squeeze on the demand for coal, not just our coal, has been scant reward for the efforts which everyone in British Coal has injected in recent years — efforts which have seen productivity more than double in the past six years," Mr. Clarke told a news conference.

He blamed increasing use of subsidized nuclear power and a "dash to gas" by utilities that find natural gas an environmentally sound alternative to burning coal.

Mr. Clarke said 27 mines will close and four others will be mothballed, with 19,000 jobs axed by Christmas. British Coal now employs 48,000 people in its coal operations, he said.

"Everything possible must be

done to ease the difficulties which will be faced by those leaving British Coal, by their families and their communities," Mr. Clarke said.

Prime Minister John Major's government, sensitive to the impact of massive layoffs during Britain's worst recession since World War II, said it would spend £1 billion (\$1.71 billion) to ease the burden on coalfield communities.

"These decisions have been taken only after the most careful consideration," said Michael Heseltine, president of Britain's Board of Trade.

Although British Coal executives expressed concern for workers losing their jobs, the company warned that any workers involved in "disruptive industrial action," could lose all their severance benefits, which can total up to £37,000 (\$63,270).

Mr. Clarke said there were no plans for top British Coal executives to take salary cuts or make other sacrifices.

Six mines will close early Saturday in the first round of cutbacks.

Big layoffs are nothing new to Britain's coal industry, which peaked around World War I and has been in a state of steep decline since the 1950s.

The backbone of the miners union was broken during a strike that began in 1984 as the coal industry came under enormous pressure from cheap oil prices.

The walkout ended in defeat for the miners in 1985 and was seen as a major Thatcher triumph over the opposition Labour Party, which supports a large coal industry.

As years passed, the mines kept closing and more and more miners were laid off, leaving British Coal a shadow of what it had once been.

British Coal is now in the process of being privatized, although a spokeswoman said Tuesday the company had no deadline.

Britain has some small independent coal producers, but they mine only a total of 3.4 million tonnes a year, compared with some 88 million tonnes a year for British Coal.

Weak demand for base metals predicted

LONDON (AP) — Weak demand for base metals from major economies will flatten prices for the rest of this year, Billion-Enthoven Metals Ltd. predicted in a market survey.

"Given the poor demand outlook we do not expect copper prices to stage a major break-out on the upside in the final quarter

by the Commonwealth of Independent States could equal 1991's record, the survey said.

Interest in lead, nickel and tin was also flagging, the company said.

Billion's forecasts of average annual prices for 1992, in U.S. cents per pound with 1991 comparisons in parentheses, were copper 105 cents (106), aluminum 57.5 cents (59), zinc 57.5 cents (51), lead 26 cents (25), nickel 327 cents (371) and tin 275 cents (254).

Mild weather and reduced car production was depressing demand for batteries — lead's single biggest market, the report said. Stainless steel production, which uses about 60 per cent of the world's nickel output, was

rising in the United States, the survey said. But this was likely to be more than offset by falls in Japan and elsewhere this year.

"Hence, although the supply of nickel is expected to be lower this year as a result of lower Western production and Russian exports, the anticipated even sharper fall in demand means that the market is likely to record another hefty surplus," the report said.

The company also predicted a fall this quarter in the tin price. Like zinc, tin has been supported recently by supply-side problems and technical market shortages.

"On the whole supply problems (for tin) have not proved to be as acute as originally feared, whilst demand has remained surprisingly uninspiring," it said.

New Zealand central bank model draws international interest

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's central bank model, which has worked extremely well in New Zealand, is attracting interest from other countries.

The New Zealand Reserve Bank is creating interest because it is pragmatic and good compromise. It also does not have a federal structure.

The government defines a policy target of price stability in a published agreement with the central bank. The bank has freedom to pursue the target, in New Zealand's case zero to two per cent inflation by the end of 1993, and Mr. Brash is held personally accountable.

"It combines a high level of independence in operation with the acknowledged right of government to determine the precise targets," Mr. Brash said.

"Transparency is crucial," Mr. Brash said. Changes in targets are signalled in a public agreement. Linking the governor's salary to the success in achieving the target was considered but rejected.

But Mr. Brash is not expected to lose his job as inflation is currently 1.0 per cent and, at worst, is likely to rise to 1.1 per cent when September quarter figures are published next week.

"In the U.K. itself there are a number of people who have wondered whether the model might have some relevance to the U.K.," said Mr. Brash.

"I don't want to imply that people are necessarily looking at adopting it for the U.K. but I've had conversations with a number of people within the Bank of England."

"I would be reluctant to tell other countries precisely what

Economist wins Nobel for theory of human behaviour

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — An American won the Nobel prize in economics Tuesday for extending economic theories to a wide range of human behaviour, including crime and reproduction.

The academy said the work of Gary Becker, 61, of the University of Chicago, encouraged social scientists to apply economic theory to areas not previously associated with market forces: Sociology, demography and criminology.

An economist and sociologist who first advanced his ideas in the late 1950s, Dr. Becker has

borrowed an aphorism from George Bernard Shaw to describe his philosophy: "Economics is the art of making the most of life."

Dr. Becker figured out how people, households and organisations apply economic principles to everyday decisions. For example, as wages rise, it becomes uneconomical for an adult member of a household to stay home.

Dr. Becker found. As a result, the family decides to transfer some tasks to other institutions, such as day care.

This trades money for more time, and the analysis explains why married women tend to work outside the home in developed countries.

Reached by the Associated Press at home in Chicago, Dr. Becker said he was "Happy, surprised, still in a bit of a shock" about winning "I didn't think it was going to happen this year."

"What I try to do is take economic-type thinking and apply it with social-type problems," he said.

Dr. Becker "has applied the principle of rational, optimizing behaviour to areas where researchers formerly assumed that behaviour is habitual and often downright irrational," said the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awarded the \$1.2 million prize.

The academy said his analysis, which at first met with skepticism and distrust, has often been controversial.

Dr. Becker regards a household as a small factory. Costs of decisions are measured in time as well as cash.

Parents spend time as well as money on their children's education. Dr. Becker found that as family income rises, parents increase their investments in the children, but produce fewer of them. This explains the decline of fertility rates in industrialised countries.

"If you can explain sexual behavior that can be applied to large populations, then it's always useful," said Lindbeck.

Dr. Becker's theories on decision-making by criminals assumes that most are sane. His studies showed that when people are deciding whether or not to commit a crime, the probability of getting caught weighs more heavily than the type of punishment they will likely face.

Such an analysis could indicate that stronger law enforcement would be more effective than tougher sentences.

Other examples of research based on Dr. Becker's theories include how companies allocate human resources and wages, and decide whether to provide education and on-the-job training for their employees.

Dr. Becker was born in Pottsville, Pennsylvania, in 1930, and in addition to teaching at the University of Chicago is affiliated with the Hoover Institution at Stanford University. His books include "The Economics of Discrimination," written in 1957, "Human Capital" in 1964 and "A treatise on the family" in 1981.

Since the first award in 1969, 19 of the 32 economics prize winners have been Americans. Dr. Becker is the 15th person connected with the University of Chicago to win the Nobel in economics in the past 22 years. The first, in 1970, was Paul Samuelson.

The Nobel memorial prize in economic science, founded by the Bank of Sweden, is the only Nobel that wasn't established by dynamite inventor Alfred Nobel.

Fiat reports profit slump, warns of worse to come

TURIN, Italy (R) — Italian industrial giant Fiat SPA has said its profits dipped more than 50 per cent in the first half of 1992 and warned that the second half would be even worse.

Italy's largest private sector concern blamed world recession for hitting consumer demand for cars, the heart of its operations, and said there were few signs yet of any recovery.

The group's pre-tax profit of 655 billion lire (\$545 million), down from 1.46 trillion lire (\$1.2 billion) for the same period last year was at the bottom end of analysts' forecasts.

"The outlook for the second half is even more difficult," the company warned in a statement.

The figures disguise the full extent of Fiat's decline because they contain a hefty payment for its remaining stake in its former telecommunications group Telettra, sold to France's Alcatel Alsthom.

The company did not say how much of the remaining 25 per cent stake — estimated by analysts to be worth between 500 and 700 billion lire — had been included in the first half accounts.

But analysts said the results showed that Fiat, whose activities range from department stores and insurance to chemicals and textiles, was making little profit on its businesses.

"The fact is that Italy's largest industrial group is making very little money," said John Longhurst, car analyst with London brokerage house James Capel.

"And the prospects for the remainder of the year are pretty dire," he added.

Analysts had been forecasting a pre-tax profit of between 600 billion (\$500 million) and 900 billion lire (\$750 billion), including the windfall Telettra earnings.

But in a sign of the difficulties, Fiat said operating profit on its industrial activities fell to 0.3 per cent of turnover, down from the 0.5 per cent it had been forecasting just three months ago compared with 1.5 per cent a year ago.

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Fresh fighting breaks out in Angola

LUANDA (R) — Fighting broke out in several parts of Luanda and South Africa tried Tuesday to steer its former protegee, National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) chief Jonas Savimbi, away from restarting Angola's civil war.

Gunfire was heard throughout the night in the capital. Diplomats reported fighting between UNITA and government forces in several parts of the city.

Roads leading to the presidential residence and other districts on the city limits were closed.

There was no word on casualties as South African Foreign Minister P. W. Botha flew to Mr. Savimbi's central highlands stronghold of Huambo for what looked increasingly like make-or-break talks on the country's election crisis.

"We no longer have clout over UNITA," the South Africans are the only hope," said one U.S. diplomat.

The diplomats said UNITA was in control of large parts of Huambo and Kuito cities in the

central highlands where Mr. Savimbi commands traditional support.

Mr. Savimbi, who fought the ruling MPLA (Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola) for 16 years, has accused the government of fraud in last month's multi-party elections.

He has threatened to resume the war if results showing the MPLA the winner are published.

The National Election Council has delayed publishing the results since Mr. Savimbi claimed the Sept. 29-30 poll was rigged and a U.N.-observed probe was launched into his charges.

Council Director General Onofre Dos Santos told Reuters plans to announce the results Tuesday might be postponed yet again.

"We fear there will be war if we announce them before the end of the inquiry," he said, adding that he wanted to call a meeting of all 18 parties which participated in the poll to canvass all views.

But diplomats said the MPLA believed the country was being

held hostage to UNITA's threats and is piling pressure on the council to release results which would show its victory.

"The important thing is to guarantee peace," said Jose Luis De Jesus, the Cape Verdean spokesman of a four-man U.N. Security Council team in Luanda trying to avert disaster.

UNITA has been isolated internationally, especially by its former backer the United States. Western governments have appealed to South Africa, which helped it for most of the war, to use its continued influence to persuade Mr. Savimbi to respect May 1991 peace accords.

Mr. Botha hurried to Angola Monday promising to try to help haul the country back from the brink of renewed civil war. He held talks with U.N. officials and President Jose Eduardo Dos Santos after saying Angolan peace was crucial to the entire region.

The threat of war has escalated since gunbattles between UNITA and government police in Luanda Sunday which killed up to five

people.

The FNLA (National Front for the Liberation of Angola) — which along with UNITA and the MPLA fought Portuguese colonial rule until 1975 independence — Monday threw its support behind Mr. Savimbi's claims of fraud.

FNLA leader Holden Roberto said after meeting Mr. Savimbi that the UNITA chief was prepared to launch a war "with all his might". The two men issued a joint statement calling for the election to be annulled.

A leading UNITA official called for a high-level meeting, possibly between Mr. Savimbi and Mr. Dos Santos, to save the country from catastrophe.

Salupeta Pena, UNITA's representative in Angola's Joint Political and Military Commission, said in an interview with state radio that if the election results were announced, UNITA leaders would not be able to control their men.

"They (the results) will provoke chaos which no one will be able to control," Mr. Pena said.

Newly-repaired Sarajevo power lines smashed by mortar bombs

SARAJEVO (R) — Mortar bombs wrecked Sarajevo's power lines Tuesday hours before electricity was to be restored and repair squads prepared to risk their lives again to undo the damage.

"We have to continue what we started and I sincerely hope that the city will get electricity but that, unfortunately, is not in our hands," said Irfan Durmic, director of the Sarajevo Electric Company.

"We created the technical conditions but the transmission lines have been downed again which shows the enemy does not want electricity to be supplied to the city."

With temperatures dropping fast as the Balkan winter approaches, the lack of basic utilities in Sarajevo will add to the humanitarian disaster in Bosnia.

Teams of workers from the Sarajevo Electric Company and representatives of the Serbs besieging the city have forayed to the outskirts of the city accompanied by United Nations troops to repair damaged lines over the last two days.

In Geneva Monday, spokesman Fred Eckhardt of the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) said 90 per cent of sockets to repair Sarajevo's electrical lines "have been aborted because of attacks on the technicians by one party or another."

While there has been no major fighting in the city in almost a week, snipers retained their deadly grip on intersections, small arms fire erupted without warning and mortar bombs occasionally hit the outskirts of the old town.

Air raid sirens wailed over the city but there was no other sign of an attack.

Another major problem is a severe water shortage which began with the first power failures two months ago. The city has had no power or running water for 20 days.

Although tankers have been bringing the shelling and sniper fire to deliver water, the sight of people filling buckets and bottles with dirty water in streams and from broken pipes in the streets is a familiar one.

Fighting appeared to have subsided in other parts of the republic as well after Serb troops forced open a vital lifeline corridor running through the north of the republic and linking Serbia proper with Krajina in the west.

The corridor is the only supply route for Krajina, a Serb enclave in Croatia, and its importance increases with the onset of winter.

Serb forces swept through north Bosnia in a campaign which began in June and culminated in the fall of the major town of Bosanski Brod last week, leaving the Muslims barely in control only of the smaller town of Gradacac.

Gradacac is regularly shelled by Serb artillery and government-controlled Sarajevo Radio said that Monday night was no exception with some 7,000 shells hitting the city.

Serb officers said they would defy a U.N. no-fly zone over Bosnia if Muslim or Croat forces went on the offensive and were ready to respond to any attempts to stop them.

"If the other side does not respect the ceasefire agreements, we will fly," General Zivomir Ninkovic, commander of the air force of the so-called Serbian Republic of Bosnia-Herzegovina, said Monday.

"If the stiffer resolution is

adopted (to attack Serbian warplanes) that would mean a wider escalation of clashes in the Balkans and in Europe.

"The pilots under my command are prepared even for that option even though they do not want it," he said.

Serb forces appeared to be in the final stages of their "ethnic cleansing" campaign in north Bosnia, saying they were crushing the last vestiges of resistance to their authority.

Hundreds of homes have been razed around Kotor Varos, a Serb-controlled ethnically-mixed town 35 kilometres southeast of the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Banja Luka.

In an important development in Belgrade, a referendum in Serbia failed to produce a large enough majority to call early presidential and parliamentary elections, according to unofficial results.

The result is a victory for hard-line President Slobodan Milosevic who opposes elections. It raises the question whether Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic will follow through on his threat to dissolve the Serbian parliament and call elections if the referendum failed.

The conflict between Mr. Cosic and Yugoslav Prime Minister Milan Panic and Mr. Milosevic is completely in the open and a federal government spokesman said Monday that Mr. Panic had held "dramatic" talks with Mr. Milosevic and asked him to step down.

Mr. Milosevic is widely considered the driving force behind the Yugoslav war, both in Bosnia and in Croatia last year, while Mr. Panic and Mr. Cosic are pursuing a more conciliatory line, including negotiations with Croatia.

Desertions mount as Kim quits Seoul parliament

SEOUL (R) — The presidential candidate of South Korea's ruling party, facing wholesale defections, quit parliament Tuesday to rally support before the election but failed to stop a walkout by 11 more leading party members.

"I have decided to leave parliament and put all my efforts and strength into being the presidential candidate," Mr. Kim Young-Sam told the National Assembly.

But 11 senior members of Mr. Kim's Democratic Liberal Party (DLP) tendered their resignations, accusing their leader of sowing dissent and abusing his power.

"We decided to leave as we cannot expect responsibility, fulfillment or promise from the DLP any longer," said the disaffected politicians, all ex-MPs and including a former parliamentary speaker.

Analysts say the race for the presidential Blue House is now wide open. Mr. Kim and his chief rival Kim Dae-Jung are running neck and neck, according to a private poll conducted for the main opposition Democratic Party.

The politicians who mutinied Tuesday join an increasing body of the party faithful dissatisfied with the DLP's choice of Mr. Kim as its presidential candidate.

The DLP mutineers are expected shortly to form a new conservative power bloc and present their own candidate for the election.

The DLP, once the mighty power in South Korean politics, is now a shadow of its former self. Outgoing President Roh Tae-Woo resigned from the party last month to try to stay neutral in the elections for his successor.

The entire cabinet quit to reinforce Mr. Roh's desire to have a neutral team in charge during the election campaign. A caretaker prime minister with no political affiliation was selected last week to replace DLP faithful Chung Won-Shik.

Party co-chairman and tycoon Park Tae-Joon quit last Friday, citing a desire to concentrate on economic issues.

S. African parliament session under fire

CAPE TOWN (R) — A special session of South Africa's white-dominated parliament addressed by President F.W. de Klerk was greeted with general disappointment Tuesday.

Tony Leon, member of parliament for the liberal opposition Democratic Party, described Mr. De Klerk's speech to Monday's opening session as "flat, uninspired and directionless."

He likened the president to former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a captive of disaffected members of his own party.

In his state-of-the-nation speech Monday, Mr. De Klerk moved to placate white supporters, saying non-racial elections would not be possible until violence and intimidation ended.

A Western diplomat said Mr. De Klerk had been caught in a cleft stick. He would be damned if he introduced legislation that might prejudice constitutional negotiations, and damned if he produced nothing substantive for the session.

"It's really not clear why he insisted on this session in the first place," he added.

David Dalling, who defected from the Democratic Party to represent the African National Congress (ANC) as an independent, said the ANC considered the session a complete waste of time costing the taxpayer over 10 million rand (\$3.5 million).

Business Day newspaper said Mr. De Klerk's speech had not been worth recalling parliament for. His message "could have been said from any party-political platform," it said.

The Afrikaans newspaper Beeld, however, hailed the speech as constructive and said many South Africans fearing a slide into chaos would have their confidence strengthened.

Government spokesman David Steward said Mr. De Klerk was due to enter the political debate Tuesday, although no surprises were expected.

He said the president and his ministers would spell out their aims for legislation they were seeking to pass during the session, expected to last about two weeks.

This included a controversial amnesty bill, which the ANC has condemned as "a criminal seeking to pardon himself."

"The president has reiterated his intention to submit to parliament legislation that will deal with people not yet charged or convicted on the same basis as certain ANC members have already been dealt with," Mr. Steward told Reuters.

Right-wing whites and anti-ANC black leaders criticised Mr. De Klerk after his Sept. 26 summit with Nelson Mandela, saying he had given in to ANC demands without winning any concessions.

The government has come under particular fire over prisoner releases agreed with the ANC, in which ordinary criminals rather than political detainees have been freed in error.

ANC strategist Kader Asmal Tuesday described Mr. De Klerk's address to parliament as "a very foolish, gung-ho kind of speech... addressed largely at damage limitation."

Mr. De Klerk told parliament private armies — black and white — had to be disbanded, and called the ANC to curb mass action signed to push the government to speed up reform.

The government's chief negotiator, Constitutional Development Minister Roelf Meyer, told parliament he could not foresee an all-race election for a new constitutional assembly in less than a year.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Ukraine MPs approve new premier

KIEV (R) — Ukraine's parliament overwhelmingly approved industrialist Leonid Kuchma as the country's prime minister Tuesday, nearly two weeks after the resignation of his unpopular predecessor. Deputies voted 316 to 23 to approve Mr. Kuchma's nomination by President Leonid Kravchuk after a short debate on his proposals to right the economy. Mr. Kuchma pledged to concentrate on introducing a market-based system and leave politics to Mr. Kravchuk. His conservative predecessor Vitold Fokin was widely blamed for the failure to draw up a concrete proposal for the transition from decades of Communist command economics.

Moscow shivers under early snowfall

MOSCOW (AP) — Snow accompanied by icy Arctic winds gave Moscow a taste of winter and disrupted the morning rush hour Tuesday as the Russian capital got its earliest dusting in 16 years. Temperatures fell to minus 7 degrees C (19 degrees F) overnight, and tens of thousands of commuters were delayed as the city's aging fleet of buses and trolleys stalled in the cold snap. The body of a young man was found in the snow near Moscow's Kiev train station, but an autopsy had not yet been performed, and it hadn't been determined whether he froze to death or died of other causes. Car door locks froze and truck drivers who park at night on the highway ring the city warmed up their rigs with gas burners.

Gorbachev ready to aid court case

MOSCOW (R) — Former Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has reached an apparent compromise with Russia's top court, breaking a deadlock over his refusal to testify on the fate of the party he once headed, his aide said Tuesday. Gorbachev spokesman Vladimir Tyumarkin told Interfax News Agency the former president and Communist Party boss had agreed to cooperate with the court but only outside the framework of the formal hearings. Mr. Tyumarkin said Mr. Gorbachev — who has said his participation would turn the hearings into a spectacle — could meet the judges in private. Gorbachev's offer, part of an apparent deal to end a bitter row with Russian President Boris Yeltsin, followed statements late Monday by lawyers for both sides in the court case that his testimony was no longer necessary.

Woman dies after pig liver transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — A dying woman who received a pig liver to keep her alive died late Monday before surgeons could implant a human organ. "Shortly before she went into the operating room, there was a serious decline in her condition," said hospital spokesman Ron Wise. "She was very unstable. The team tried but couldn't stabilise her." The cause of death was not immediately known. Susan Fowler, 26, had suffered liver disease since childhood. She had been in critical condition since Sunday, when the pig liver was implanted next to her own during an eight-hour operation — the first pig-to-human liver transplant. The pig liver was considered a means of keeping her alive until a human organ could be found, not a permanent replacement for her own liver. Mr. Wise said her condition had been increasingly stable since the pig liver was transplanted.

Iliescu begins search for premier, government

BUCHAREST (R) — Re-elected President Ion Iliescu began the search Tuesday for a neutral prime minister and a workable governing coalition from among the disparate political parties of Romania's new hung parliament.

Mr. Iliescu, 62, secured a second term as head of state when he emerged Monday as clear victor of last Sunday's presidential election with 60 per cent of the vote.

But the legislative election, which took place two weeks earlier, has left his Socialist-oriented Democratic National Salvation Front (DNSF) Party well short of an overall majority in parliament, forcing him to look for coalition formulas.

He first took power in the December 1989 revolt in which Stalinist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu was ousted and executed, and he went on to become president with a landslide election victory in May 1990.

The president's election victory appears to have legitimised his rule, which opponents have often questioned.

Mr. Iliescu Tuesday contacted leaders of parties and alliances which won seats in parliament to tap their views on coalition possibilities and called a meeting of the new legislature for Friday, Bucharest radio said.

The DNSF won 28 per cent of the parliamentary vote, against 20 for the Democratic Convention, the main centrist opposition alliance which combines 18 political groups.

But several other parties including hardline nationalists, revived communists and centre-right reformers, also have many seats and will play pivotal roles in coalition-building efforts in this Balkan country of 23 million people.

"A parliament emerged in which no political party is strong enough to form or to lead a lasting government," said opinion pollster Petre Dutescu in an analysis of the elections.

"The only solution for a relatively stable government seems to be the achievement of a broad parliamentary consensus between traditionalist and opposition forces within the party spectrum," Mr. Dutescu said.

Convention Chairman Corneliu Coposu said Monday his alliance would form a "constructive opposition" rather than join a coalition with Mr. Iliescu's party.

This position reflects the anti-DNSF feelings of key Convention adherents, not least members of Mr. Coposu's National Peasant Party, a main pillar in the alliance, and the Civic Alliance Party.

One name whizzing through the political rumour mill for a prospective neutral premier is Mihai Botze, a mathematician and economist who left Romania in 1987 after being persecuted for his dissident activities and who now lives in the United States.

But his relatives in Bucharest told Reuters they believed he was unlikely to accept.

China is 'ready' to promote reformers

PEKING (R) — China's Communist Party congress began setting the stage for a leadership reshuffle that will implement bold economic reforms and the security apparatus prepared to crush any unrest the new atmosphere may create.

Delegates to the congress, China's first since 1987, spent Tuesday in small groups praising the speech General Secretary Jiang Zemin gave at the opening session Monday, in which he sanctioned the use of all the tools of capitalism from stocks and shares to real estate markets.

But while the Communist Party is clearly about to stake its future on the economic reforms, it is extremely worried about the destabilising forces the reforms may unleash, a secret document obtained by Reuters Tuesday showed.

The document shows that officials fear worker unrest resulting from the reforms that could take away cradle-to-grave welfare benefits enjoyed by millions and throw many workers out of jobs.

"Security work should be strengthened at factories, mines, oil fields and other large and medium enterprises and key state

projects. During the reform of enterprises, internal security work cannot be weakened," Central Document No. 7 said.

"(We must) be alert to the appearance of factors that could lead to instability and prevent people with ulterior motives from stirring up workers to riot," the paper said.

The document also ordered that strict attention be paid to the campuses, where the 1989 pro-democracy demonstrations that rocked the government began.

All China's leaders have emphasised that no one may be promoted to the higher ranks of the Communist Party unless he or she embraces the twin tenets of economic reform and political control.

Qiao Shi, the Communist Party leader who holds ultimate responsibility for security and police, said Tuesday the congress would select a new crop of younger leaders, but he added that the candidates had to have the right political ideas.

"This congress will elect a batch of younger cadres to the central leading organs, in accordance with the principle of choosing those with both ability and

political integrity," Xinhua quoted him as telling delegates.

Mr. Qiao, considered a reformist, is tipped by diplomats and Chinese sources to be one of the winners after this congress, adding additional power and positions to his current portfolios.

Western diplomats said they expected a reshuffle in the top circles of power that would dump hardline Marxists who had resisted change and promote young reformists.

The losers in a behind-the-scenes power struggle that has been waged since January, when paramount leader Deng Xiaoping, 88, launched his campaign with a tour of economically-booming southern China, are likely to be hardliners who tightened their grip on power after the 1989 pro-democracy protests were crushed.

Western diplomats said Premier Li Peng and party General Secretary Jiang — whose careers soared after the army crackdown — would almost certainly keep their jobs for the time being.

But their positions could be undermined with the promotion of economic liberals who clearly have Mr. Deng's trust.

Attention turns to U.S. vice presidential debate

WASHINGTON (R) — The U.S. campaign spotlight falls on the vice presidential candidates Tuesday in a high-stakes debate that could spark more stinging remarks than the presidential contenders' first televised discussion.

In the 90-minute debate in Atlanta, the pressure will be on Vice-President Dan Quayle, President George Bush's running mate, to steer the Republican campaign back on course and dispel doubts about his abilities.

Mr. Quayle has cast himself in the role of Republican "pit bull" against Democratic contender Bill Clinton and vice presidential nominee Al Gore, who have a double digit lead in most polls.

"The vice president's main target will be Clinton," said one administration official.

He said Mr. Quayle was not particularly concerned by Gore, a Tennessee senator, or by James Stockdale, a Vietnam prisoner-of-war hero who is independent candidate Ross Perot's running mate.

For Mr. Quayle, this could be

the last chance to dispel lingering doubts about his ability to think on his feet and position himself for a run at the White House in 1996.

Sen. Gore, a Harvard-educated politician who revels in the details of policy, also needs to shine since he, too, is regarded as a future presidential prospect regardless of the outcome of the Nov. 3 vote.

The vice presidential candidates meet two days after Mr. Bush, Mr. Clinton and Mr. Perot faced off in St. Louis in the first of three presidential debates.

Mr. Bush, in an effort to resurrect a stalled campaign that apparently got scant help from Sunday's debate, signalled Monday he would dump his top economic aides if reelected.

Topping the list of those to be replaced were Budget Director Richard Darman, Treasury Secretary Nicholas Brady and Michael Boskin, chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, a senior administration official said on the campaign trail.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said it was tradition for the president to "ask the resignations of all his top appointees."

But in announcing the resignation request three weeks before the election, rather than after the president's possible reelection, the White House actually flouted tradition.

The goal was apparently to show a second Bush term would break from past practices that have crippled the U.S. economy.

Mr. Perot, buoyed by his apparent success in the St. Louis presidential debate, spurred in the polls, making what appeared to be a near-certain win for Mr. Clinton less of a sure thing.

Mr. Perot, a maverick billionaire from Dallas who managed the best lines, was the clear winner of the first encounter, according to several polls.

David Broder, chief political reporter and columnist of the Washington Post, said in Tuesday's editions that Perot "throws an X factor into the equation."

"I'm convinced now that if he had not... thrown over his candidacy last July, he could have made this a genuine three-way race," Mr. Broder wrote.

"But just as most of the pundits underestimated Perot's potential impact on the first debate, I suspect they are now underestimating the potential of Mr. Perot's grass roots supporters."

An ABC News survey taken after the debate showed Mr. Clinton with 46 per cent support, Mr. Bush with 31 per cent and Mr. Perot at 14 per cent.

That is almost certainly too big a gap for Mr. Perot to make up in the final three weeks. But it marked an eight-point jump over pre-debate surveys, and sets Mr. Perot up to scramble the equation for Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush.

A strong Perot showing in any of the states with large numbers of electoral votes — for example, Florida, Texas and California — would be trouble for Mr. Clinton and Mr. Bush as they try to amass the 270 electoral college votes needed to win.

COLUMN

Institute begins search for World War II pilot

NICE, France (AP) — A marine research institute began a search for the downed World War II aircraft to Antoine De Saint-Exupery, the French writer whose fable, *The Little Prince*, has enchanted generations of children and adults. Saint-Exupery served in an allied reconnaissance squadron during the war. His lighting aircraft, which took off from Corsica for a mission over the Grenoble area, went down on July 31, 1944 in the Baie Des Anges, in the Mediterranean. He was 44. The cause of the crash has never been determined, though there has been speculation he might have been shot down by a German warplane. The French Ocean Research Institute said it had launched a submersible vehicle equipped with radar capable of detecting objects as small as 15 inches tall in waters up to 1,500 metres (4,900 feet) deep. Several people saw the writer's plane crash, but divers were never able to locate the wreckage. The search will continue through Nov. 15. If the plane is found, institute officials have pledged to leave the site untouched.

Bardot files complaint against boar hunter

SAINT-TROPEZ, France (AP) — Brigitte Bardot, the film star turned animal rights crusader, filed a complaint against a neighbour for hunting wild boar too close to her house, police said. A local ordinance prohibits hunting within 150 metres of a residence, and Ms. Bardot claimed a shot was fired by the hunting party within 50 metres of her home while she was entertaining company Sunday afternoon, police said. Ms. Bardot also accused the neighbour of making verbal threats during a conversation that ensued when she went with a friend to ascertain who had been shooting, police said. Police did not release the neighbour's name and said the incident was under investigation.

Magazine alleges Mussolini bought exam passes

ROME (R) — Alessandra Mussolini, an Italian neo-fascist deputy and the granddaughter of Italy's former dictator, may have bought top grade passes in two university exams, the Italian magazine *Panorama* reported. The magazine reported Ms. Mussolini has been asked to appear before a Rome court next January on charges that she paid university employees to falsify grades on her Roman history and moral philosophy exams in 1982. Ms. Mussolini, the glamorous blonde granddaughter of former fascist dictator Benito Mussolini and the niece of movie star Sofia Loren, has vehemently denied the accusations. "I studied for eight months for those exams. That's why I got the highest grade," she told Italian newspapers. "People are trying to turn my name into mud and I'm not going to put up with it. I'm going to go after them with my claws." Ms. Mussolini, elected to parliament this spring, is still preparing her final thesis after switching to read a degree in medicine.

Smoking kills 12 Britons an hour, report says

LONDON (R) — Nearly half of all adults and unborn babies are exposed to danger from passive smoking in Britain, where 12 people die every hour from tobacco-related diseases, a medical report said. A study by the government's Health Education Executive showed that 48 per cent of unborn babies were exposed to tobacco smoke at home, either because their mothers smoked or because they were exposed to other people's tobacco smoke. And 45 per cent of all adults in Britain were exposed to tobacco smoke at home either because they smoked themselves or lived with a smoker. Dr. Ann McNeill, smoking education manager, said the report had for the first time estimated the impact of passive smoking in the home. "There is compelling evidence that passive smoking, whether before birth or during a child's early years, can cause serious illnesses which stay with children throughout their lives." In pregnancy, smoking can cause low birth weight, spontaneous abortion, stillbirth or early neo-natal death. "Children could develop breathing difficulties and middle ear infection. Smoking aggravated asthma and harmed the eyes, nose and throat."